

NO 42-
OCT.

Lovelorn

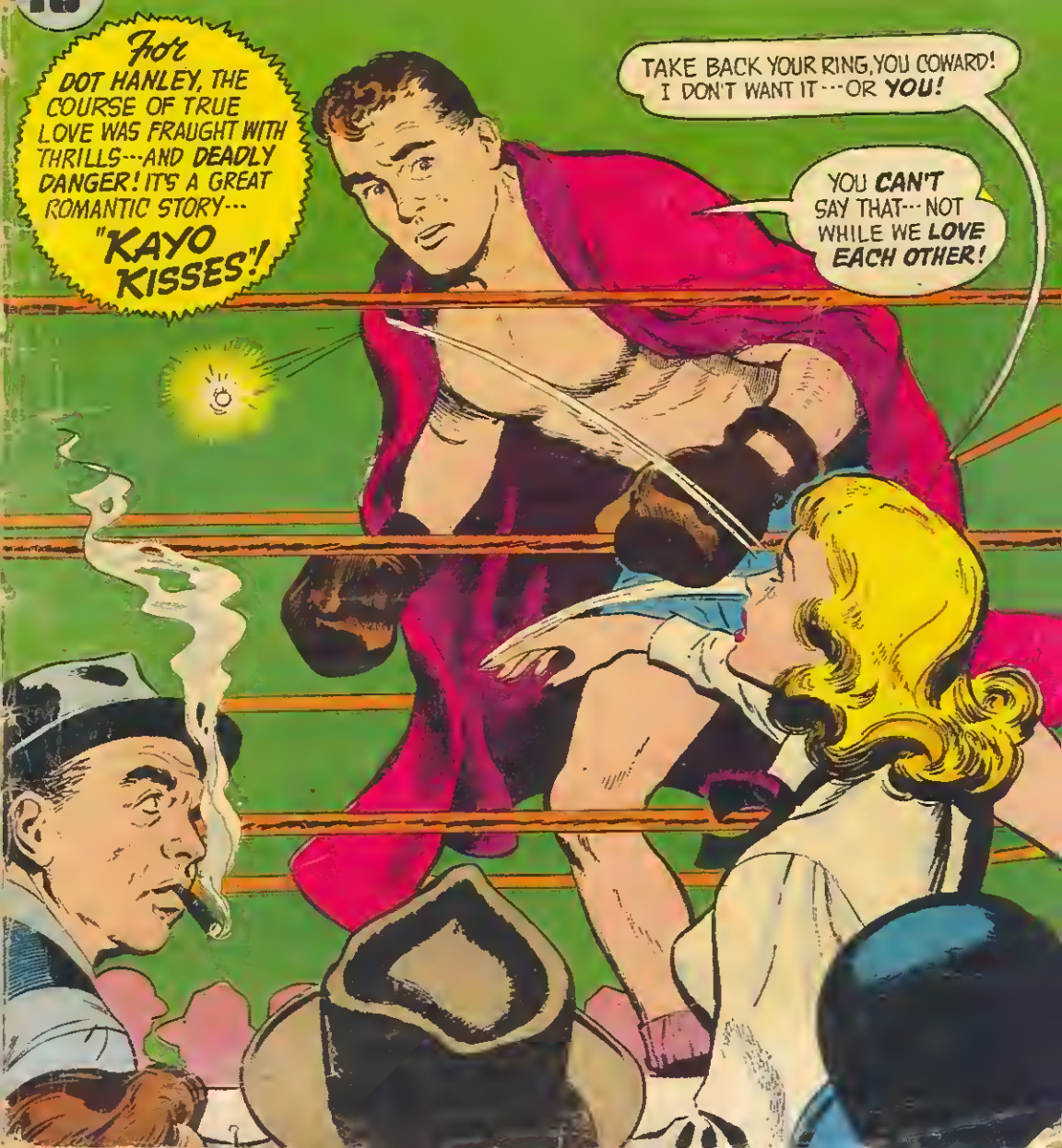
10¢

Hot
DOT HANLEY, THE
COURSE OF TRUE
LOVE WAS FRAUGHT WITH
THRILLS---AND DEADLY
DANGER! IT'S A GREAT
ROMANTIC STORY---

**"KAYO
KISSES!"**

TAKE BACK YOUR RING, YOU COWARD!
I DON'T WANT IT---OR **YOU!**

YOU **CAN'T**
SAY THAT--- NOT
WHILE WE **LOVE**
EACH OTHER!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

CHEW "SPECIAL FORMULA" CHEWING GUM! *Reduce*

UP TO **5 lbs.** A WEEK WITH **DOCTOR'S PLAN!**

NOW—at last—a new, scientific idea which guarantees you can lose as much weight as you wish—or you **DON'T PAY A PENNY!** The wonderful part is that it is so simple . . . so very easy and safe to lose those ugly, fatty bulges on hips, abdomen, chin, neck, bust, arms, thighs, legs, etc. The results of lost weight by normally overweight men and women are really amazing. No hardship, no exhausting exercises, drugs or laxatives. Here's the new, modern way to reduce . . . to acquire an improved figure and the slimmer, exciting, more graceful silhouette you've dreamed about. Simply chew Special Formula Chewing Gum and follow the Doctor's Plan. This tasty wholesome Chewing Gum possesses Sorbitol, is sugar-free, and reduces appetite. Sorbitol is a new discovery and contains no fat and no available carbohydrates. Just chew this delicious gum and reduce with the Doctor's Plan. If your heart's desire is a slender, beautiful attractive figure—if you want more popularity, friends, romance—then start today! Doctor's Plan will amaze you. Try it for only 10 days, then step on the scale. You will hardly believe your eyes. The important thing is to start . . . so **MAIL COUPON BELOW TODAY!**

FREE A full 12-day supply package will be given FREE with each order of 24-day supply for \$2.00.

**100% MONEY
BACK GUARANTEE**

Let your scale prove you can lose weight and acquire a slimmer attractive figure. A 10-day trial must convince you **OR NO COST**

12-
DAY
SUPPLY
ONLY
\$1

DOCTOR'S PLAN, DEPT. A202
P. O. BOX 787, NEWARK 1, NEW JERSEY

Save postage. Doctor's Plan pays postage if you enclose payment now. (If c.o.d., postage and mailing charges extra.)

- ☐ I enclose \$2 cash, check, or money order Please rush the full 24-day supply PLUS the FREE 12-day package.
☐ I enclose \$1. Please rush full 12-day package.

Please Print Clearly

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

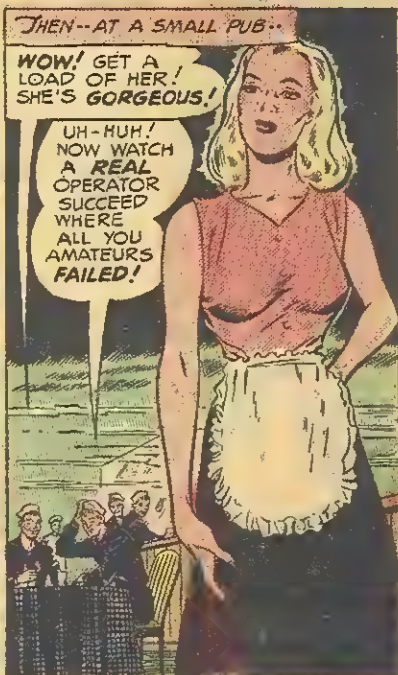
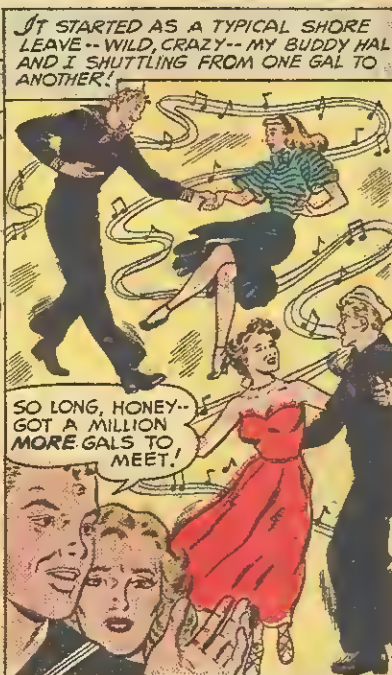
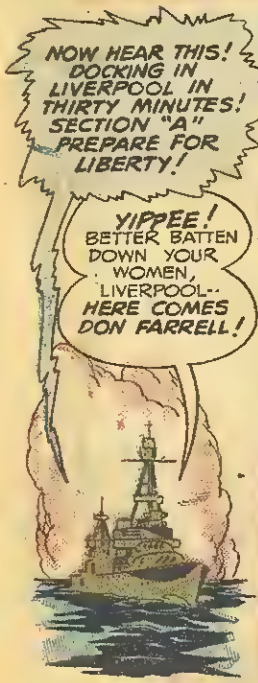
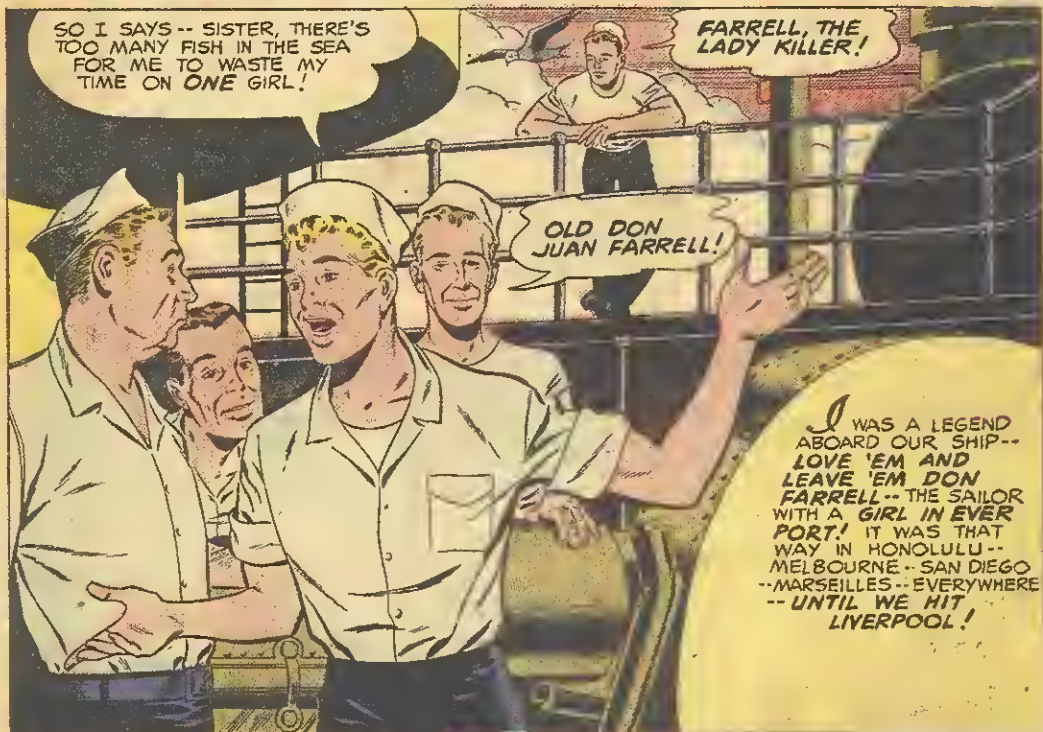
CITY.....STATE.....

ORDER TODAY—MAIL COUPON NOW!

MAIL THIS COUPON



A GIRL in EVERY PORT



STOP BEATING YOUR GUMS, LOVER BOY! I GOT A BUCK SAYS YOU COULDN'T GET TO FIRST BASE WITH HER EITHER!

YOU'RE ON, PAL!



I'LL BET THAT I NOT ONLY WILL GET HER TO GO OUT WITH ME--BUT FALL FOR ME TOO!

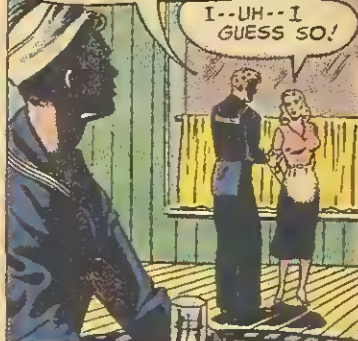
IT'S A BET!



AFFECTING MY CLEAN-CUT, ALL-AMERICAN-BOY MANNER, I QUICKLY ESTABLISHED A BEACH-HEAD...

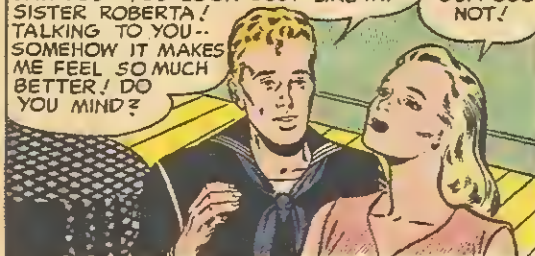
I HOPE I'M NOT BEING FORWARD--BUT COULD I SPEAK TO YOU PRIVATELY FOR A MOMENT? IT'S RATHER IMPORTANT!

I--UH--I GUESS SO!



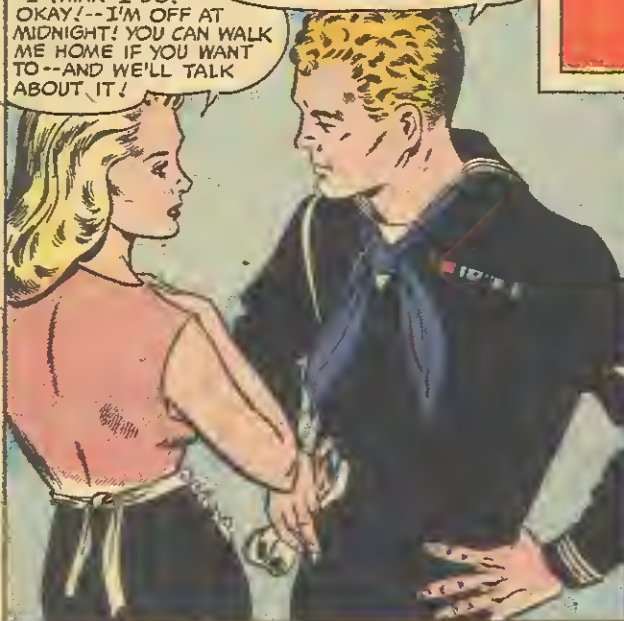
YOU SEE, MISS, I'VE BEEN AT SEA A LONG TIME--13 MONTHS--AND I'M TERRIBLY HOMESICK! AND SOMEHOW--WHEN I SAW YOU--YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY SISTER ROBERTA! TALKING TO YOU--SOMEHOW IT MAKES ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER! DO YOU MIND?

I--I SUPPOSE NOT!



DON'T THINK I'M JUST ANOTHER OF THESE GIRL-CRAZY SAILORS! IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO LONELY--AND YOU LOOK SO LIKE MY SISTER! CAN YOU UNDERSTAND?

I THINK I DO! OKAY!--I'M OFF AT MIDNIGHT! YOU CAN WALK ME HOME IF YOU WANT TO--AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT!



I KNOW IT'S PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME...BUT YOU'D MAKE ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER--IF YOU WOULD GO OUT WITH ME! JUST SO I COULD TALK TO YOU--

WELL, I ...



I ENJOYED SHOWING HAL I COULD DATE HER... BUT EVEN MORE, AMAZINGLY ENOUGH... I ENJOYED HER SWEET, REFRESHING COMPANY!

SOMETIMES I GET SO TIRED OF THOSE FRESH SAILORS...ALWAYS OGGLING AND TEASING... THINKING EVERY GIRL WILL SWOON OVER THEM!

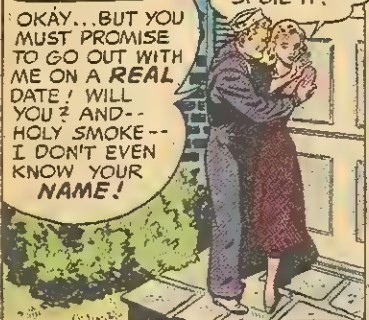
YES, I KNOW! THEY'RE TERRIBLE, AREN'T THEY? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THOSE GUYS!



AS THE SOFT MOONLIGHT FELL ON HER LOVELY FACE, I WANTED TO PRESS HER LIPS TO MINE... AND IT WASN'T TO IMPRESS HAL, EITHER!

NO! YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS--PLEASE DON'T SPOIL IT!

OKAY... BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO GO OUT WITH ME ON A REAL DATE! WILL YOU? AND-- HOLY SMOKE-- I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME!



YES, DON... I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN --AND MY NAME IS MARY!

GOODNIGHT, MARY!



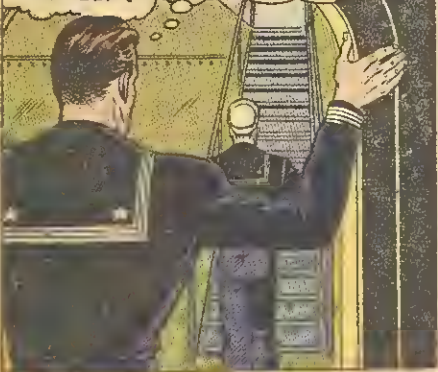
TWO DAYS LATER--SHORE LEAVE AGAIN!

YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH THAT MARY, EH? WELL, IF YOU DON'T MAKE HER FALL FOR YOU TODAY, I COLLECT ON THAT BET!

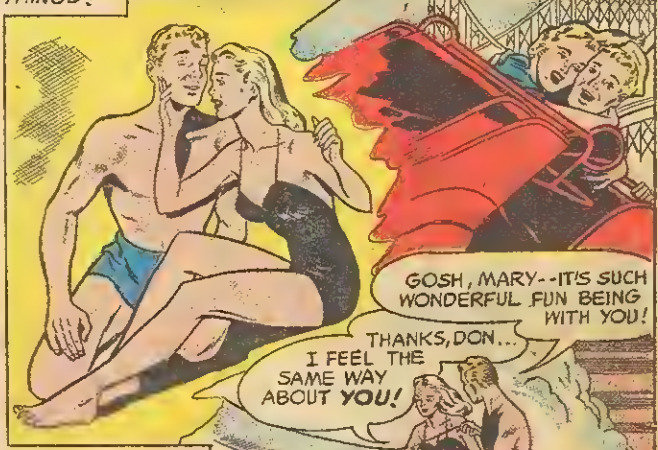
SIMMER DOWN, BUB! TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT!



OKAY, CHUM! I'M NOT GONNA TAKE YOUR WORD... I'LL SEE FOR MYSELF!



BEING WITH MARY WAS DIFFERENT FROM BEING WITH ANY OTHER GIRL I HAD KNOWN! SHE WAS SWEET, WARM, UNSPOILED--AND SHE GOT A KICK OUT OF SUCH SIMPLE THINGS!



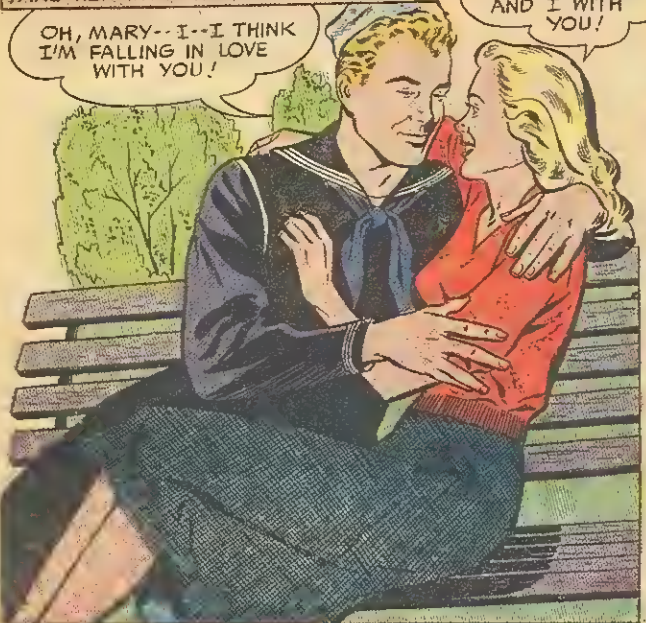
GOSH, MARY--IT'S SUCH WONDERFUL FUN BEING WITH YOU!

THANKS, DON... I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU!

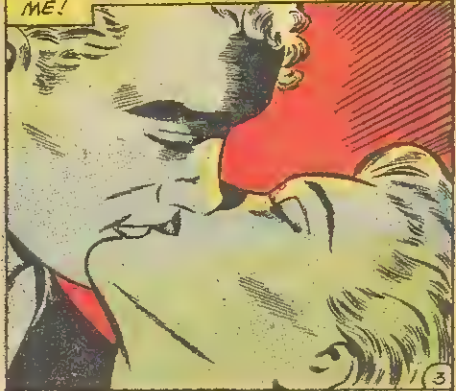
I KNOW, DON-- AND I WITH YOU!

WE STOPPED IN THE PARK--WATCHED THE MOON SPLASH THE WATER--AND THE MILLIONS OF STARS BLAZING IN THE SKY! I WANTED DESPERATELY TO TAKE HER INTO MY ARMS...

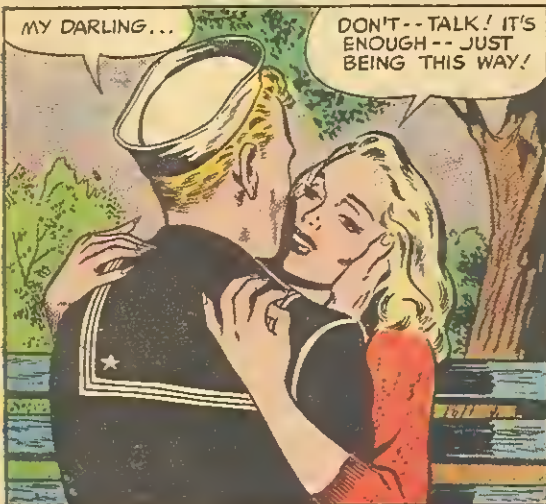
OH, MARY--I--I THINK I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU!



IT WAS A KISS TO CHERISH FOREVER--IT THRILLED ME AS NO KISS HAD EVER DONE BEFORE! OUR LIPS MET FOR A BRIEF ETERNITY--AND IT SEEMED TO ECLIPSE THE MOON AND BLOT OUT THE WHOLE WORLD--EXCEPT MARY AND ME!

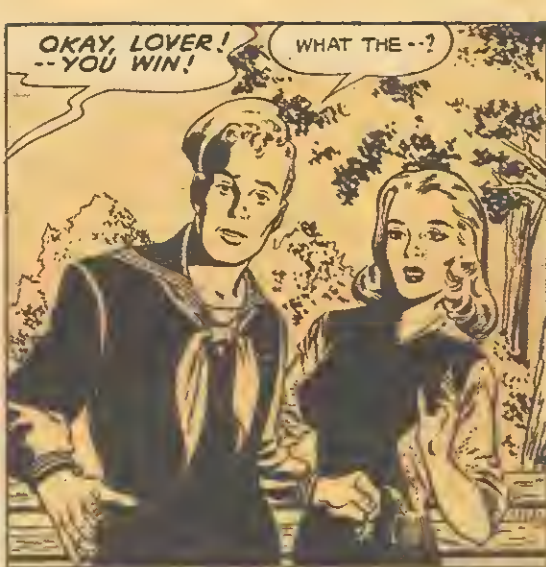


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I FELT THE WARM,
TENDER GLOW OF LOVE... DEEP AND ABIDING!



MY DARLING...

DON'T--TALK! IT'S
ENOUGH--JUST
BEING THIS WAY!



OKAY, LOVER!
--YOU WIN!

WHAT THE--?



HERE'S YOUR BUCK,
DON! I GOTTA
HAND IT TO YOU...
YOU SURE KNOW
HOW TO THROW
A MEAN LINE!

HAL! YOU
CRAZY
COOT!
GET OUT
OF HERE
BEFORE
YOU RUIN...



WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? I
INSIST THAT YOU TELL
ME THE TRUTH--THIS
MINUTE!



IT--IT'S NOTHING
REALLY! HAL AND
I JUST HAD A
SILLY LITTLE
BET...

I SHOULD
KNOW
NO DAME
COULD
RESIST DON
--HE'S GOT
A GIRL IN
EVERY PORT!



IS THAT SO?
WELL, HERE'S
ONE GIRL HE
DOESN'T
HAVE! DON
FARRELL--I
NEVER WANT
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN!

MARY!
WAIT! I
CAN EXPLAIN!
THIS IS
DIFFERENT!



SOME DAY YOU'LL LEARN
A GIRL'S HEART ISN'T A
TOY TO BE PLAYED WITH
--OR BET ON! WHY, YOU
DON'T LOVE ME--YOU
CAN'T--YOU LOVE ONLY
YOURSELF! YOU HAVE
NO RESPECT FOR GIRLS
--YOU THINK THEY'RE
OBJECTS TO BE CON-
QUERED AND HUNG FROM
YOUR BELT LIKE SO MANY
SCALPS!

WAIT,
DARLING!
PLEASE!

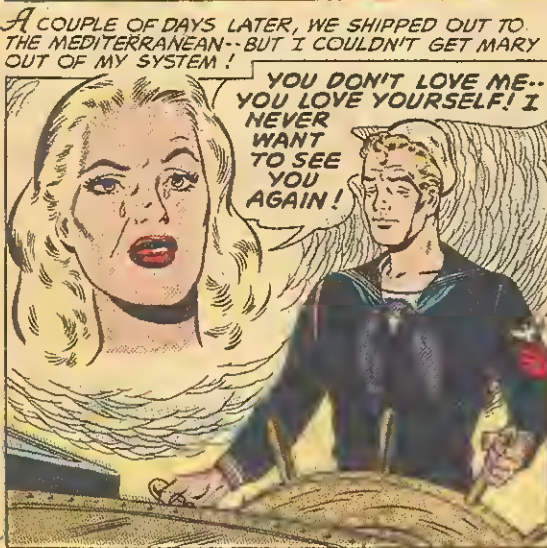


THIS IS ONE SCALP YOU'RE NOT GETTING! SAVE ALL THOSE LIES FOR THE OTHER GIRLS IN THE OTHER PORTS! AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

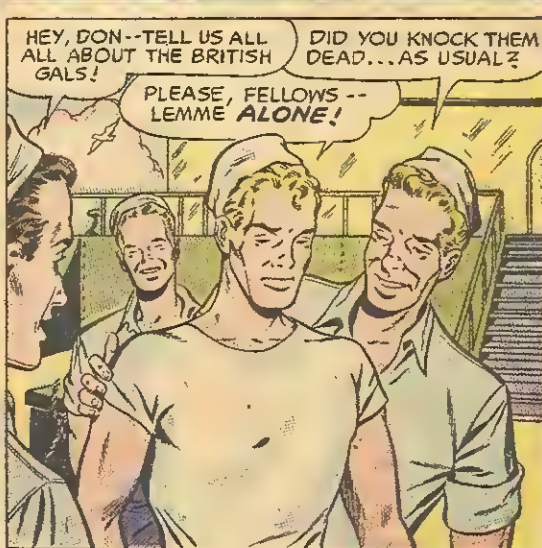


GEE! THAT'S A SWITCH! A GAL GIVING YOU THE AIR!

YEAH-- FUNNY, ISN'T IT?



YOU DON'T LOVE ME-- YOU LOVE YOURSELF! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



HEY, DON--TELL US ALL ALL ABOUT THE BRITISH GALS!

DID YOU KNOCK THEM DEAD...AS USUAL?

PLEASE, FELLOWS -- LEMME ALONE!



WE GOT LIBERTY, DON--LET'S SHOVE OFF!

NO THANKS, HAL--GO WITHOUT, ME!



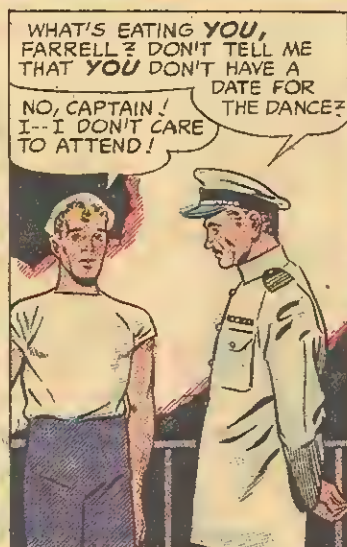
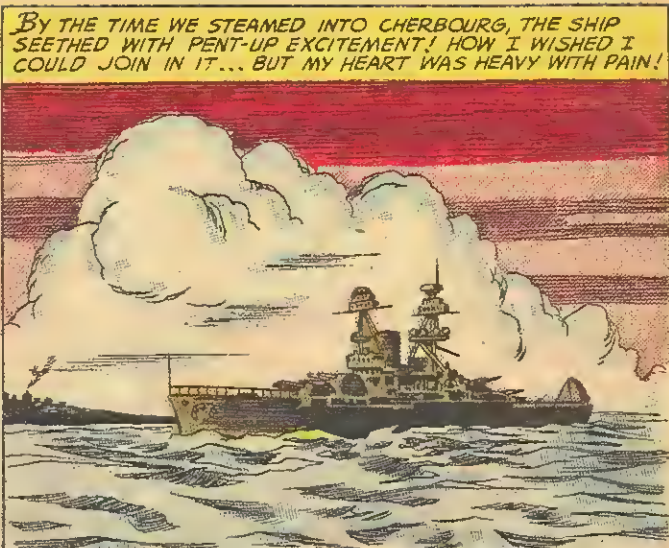
WHAT'S WITH DON? HE SICK OR SOMETHING?

GOSH, HE WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE TO HIT THE BEACH!

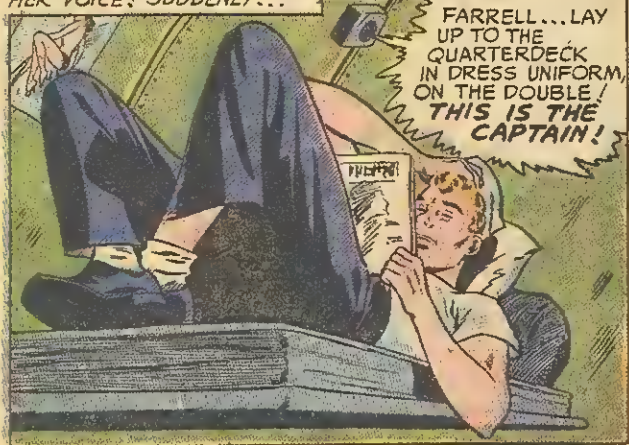


NEXT DAY... A GRAND SURPRISE FOR THE CREW!

NOW HEAR THIS! THE SHIP HAS BEEN ORDERED TO CHERBOURG TO JOIN IN A CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMOUS ALLIED INVASION OF FRANCE! THERE WILL BE A DANCE AND PARTY ABOARD SHIP! ALL HANDS ARE URGED TO ARRANGE DATES WITH FRENCH GIRLS!



WHEN THE DANCE STARTED... I COULDN'T BEAR STAYING AROUND! I WENT BELOW AND TRIED TO READ! THE ROMANTIC MUSIC STABBED MY MEMORY-- I LONGED TO SEE MARY AGAIN... TO HEAR THE SOUND OF HER VOICE! SUDDENLY...

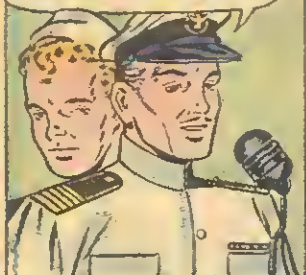


MEN AND GUESTS! IN ADDITION TO BEING THE PROUD SKIPPER OF THIS SHIP, I'M ALSO THE **MORALE OFFICER!** I GAVE MYSELF THAT ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE I KNOW THAT ONLY A HAPPY CREW CAN BE A FIGHTING AND EFFICIENT CREW-- AND THAT MEANS **EVERY MOTHER'S SON ABOARD THE SHIP!**

THAT IS WHY I SENT MY GIG ACROSS THE CHANNEL TODAY...TO GET SOMETHING THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE SHIP'S MORALE! **HERE IT IS!**

MARY! MARY!

OH, DON... DARLING!



I CRUSHED HER TO ME...AND THE KNOT OF PAIN AND LONELINESS DISSOLVED! SUDDENLY, THE MUSIC, THE FRAGRANT NIGHT AIR, THE STAR-SPANGLED SKY, THE BLAZING SHIPBOARD LIGHTS-- ALL SEEMED TO BE THERE JUST FOR **MARY AND ME!**



OH, DON DARLING--THE CAPTAIN TOLD ME ALL

DARLING, I CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT YOU! I LOVE YOU SO TERRIBLY!

ABOUT HOW YOU PASSED UP ALL YOUR LIBERTIES-- HOW MUCH YOU MISSED ME!...

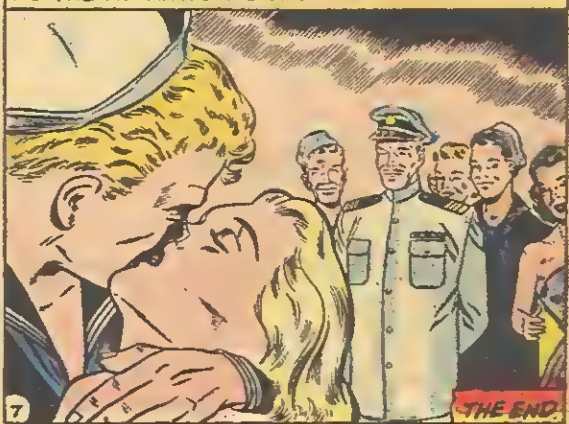


I WANTED SO MUCH FOR YOU TO COME BACK TO ME!

YOU'RE MY GIRL, PRECIOUS--FOR ALWAYS! YOU'RE THE GIRL-- THE ONLY GIRL-- I WANT IN ANY PORT!



WE CLUNG TOGETHER, OBLIVIOUS OF OUR AUDIENCE-- CONSCIOUS ONLY OF EACH OTHER, OF OUR DEEP LOVE--AND OF THE FUTURE STRETCHING BEFORE US, AS BROAD AND DEEP AS THE ATLANTIC ITSELF!



LOVE DISGUISE

NEVER HAD THE staid, impersonal, well-regulated suite of offices looked so gala, festooned with ribbons and glittering bits of decoration! Chairs and desks had been moved aside to make room for dancing and the plush office of the big boss had been turned into a gracious reception and refreshment salon. It was, indeed, the most lavish office party that had ever been seen.

As for the staff, clerical workers, bookkeepers, executives, all of them mingled in an exciting whirl of color and music, for the party was a masquerade! Catching a glimpse of her reflection in one of the glass office doors, Janet Arlen wondered at herself. Her figure, normally clad in simple dark dresses of wool or cotton, depending on the season, was poured into crimson satin, flounced thickly with the black lace that made a senorita's costume so alluring. Her hair, done up high, was caught by a flashing comb that pinned a lace mantilla in place, and a black satin mask covered most of her face, revealing only her fully-curved lips and the heart-shaped beauty spot next to them.

"Dance?" A tall, lithe Harlequin in tights of a black-and-white diamond pattern, bowed before her.

Janet, wondering who her partner might be, moved lightly in his arms, feeling the romance of the evening throb through the music, through the arms that held her, making her glow with a joyous response. Unthinkingly, she moved closer to him, feeling his hold on her tighten as they glided wordlessly across the floor.

When the dance ended, they stood a moment, still in each other's arms. Then, deliberately, the Harlequin bent down, his face so close to hers

that she could feel his warm breath touching her cheek. "Forgive me," he murmured, and he kissed her. For a dazzling moment, Janet saw the colored satin ribbons spin in a glorious whirl before her enchanted eyes and then she was lost in the kiss...

"Who is he? Who is he?" she wondered. And long after the evening was over, she kept prying at the mystery. "Who was he? Who was he?"

The office was its normal, prosaic self the following day. Gone was the glittering decor, gone were the silks and laces that eddied across the floor! The desks were back in place and behind them worked the soberly-clad office staff Janet knew so well. But *did* she know them, she asked herself, searching for the Harlequin who had stirred her heart so deeply. Who was he?

The afternoon was drawing to a close when Janet, bearing a stack of neatly-typed correspondence, walked into Pete Malcolm's office. "Your letters," she said, putting them down on the glass-topped desk. Then, her eyes widened.

There, on the desk, lay a scrap of black lace. Not a very large piece of lace, but quite large enough for Janet to recognize. Her eyes went from the lace to Pete Malcolm's face. Her question was answered.

"Was it...it was you!" she said. Then she blushed.

"Are you sure?" Pete Malcolm asked.

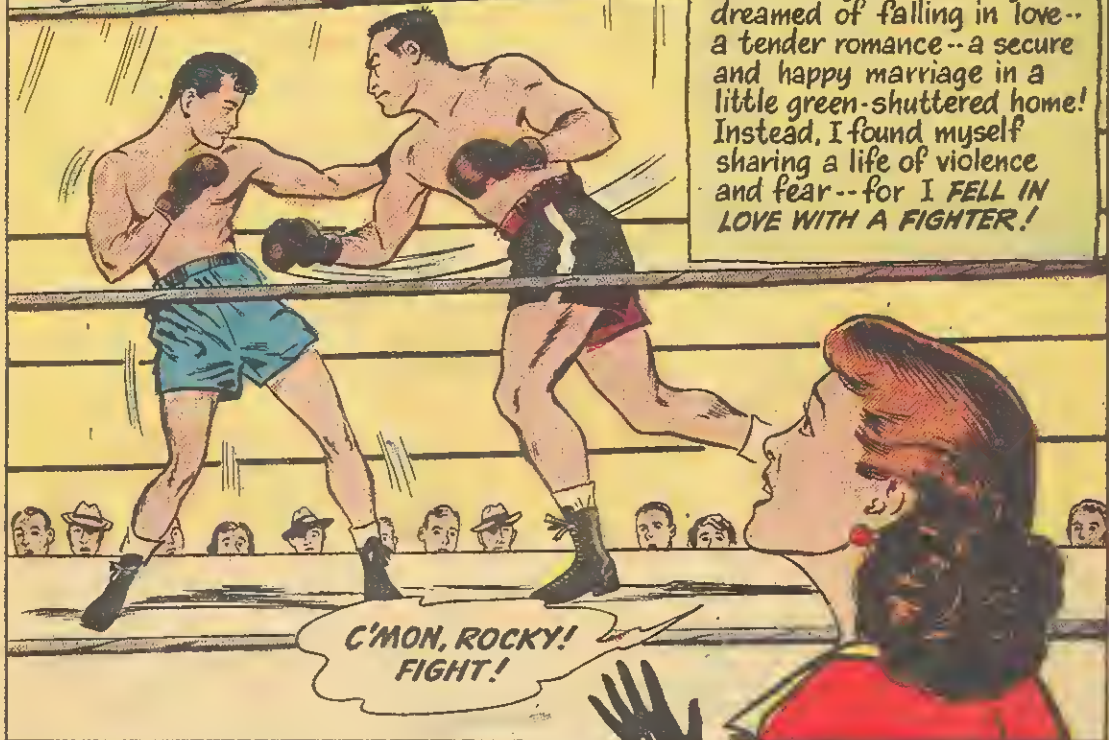
Janet felt a sudden uncertainty. "I...I..."

"Perhaps *this* will convince you," Pete Malcolm said.

As his warm breath fanned her cheek, Janet had the illusion that brilliant satin ribbons were swirling overhead, that music filled the air. Then, as his lips met hers...Janet was sure! She had unmasked her love!

Kayo Kisses

Like all girls, I always dreamed of falling in love-- a tender romance-- a secure and happy marriage in a little green-shuttered home! Instead, I found myself sharing a life of violence and fear-- for I **FELL IN LOVE WITH A FIGHTER!**



IT ALL BEGAN DURING MY SENIOR YEAR AT COLLEGE-- AT THE SPRING PROM...

PARDON ME, MISS-- MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?

OF COURSE!



I'M ROBERT MORRISON -- SENIOR IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION! WHO ARE YOU?

DOT HANLEY! ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU YOU DANCE BEAUTIFULLY, MR. MORRISON?



HE INTERESTED ME FROM THE VERY BEGINNING-- BEING OBVIOUSLY AS CLEAN-CUT AND INTELLIGENT AS HE WAS HANDSOME AND CHARMING!

SO YOU GRADUATE IN JUNE! ANY PARTICULAR PLANS?

I INTEND TO CONTINUE WHAT I'M DOING ON THE SIDE NOW-- **BOXING!** MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF **ROCKY MORRISON**, RISING YOUNG HEAVYWEIGHT? THAT'S ME!



YOU MEAN YOU'RE A --
PRIZE-FIGHTER?
BUT--

I GET IT! YOU
EXPECT ME TO
SAY "DESE" AND
"DOSE", DON'T
YOU-- AND TO
HAVE CAULIFLOWER
EARS!



NO, BUT--BUT WHY SHOULD
AN INTELLIGENT COLLEGE
MAN WANT TO BE A **FIGHTER?**

I'LL TELL YOU WHY!
COLLEGE GRADUATES
ARE A DIME A DOZEN--
AND I DON'T INTEND TO
KNOCK MYSELF OUT FOR
PEANUTS! IF I PLAY MY CARDS
RIGHT IN THE BOXING GAME,
I'LL BE ABLE TO RETIRE IN
FIVE YEARS!



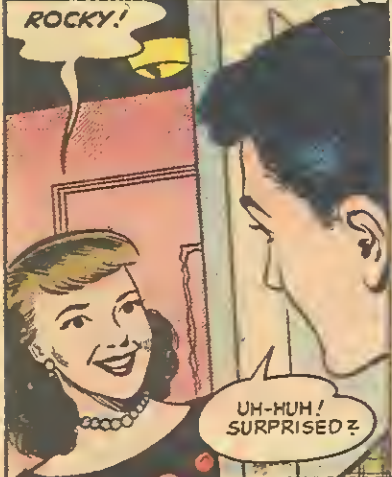
NOW THAT YOU KNOW ALL
ABOUT ME, YOU PROBABLY
WOULDN'T CARE TO SEE ME
AGAIN--RIGHT?

SILLY!
OF COURSE
I WOULD!



DAYS WENT BY--AND ROCKY DIDN'T CALL!
HARD AS I TRIED, I COULDN'T DRIVE HIM
OUT OF MY THOUGHTS! SOMEHOW I
WAS BOTH FASCINATED AND FRIGHTENED
BY HIS FIERCE DETERMINATION, HIS
SAVAGE FORCE! THEN ONE NIGHT--

C'MON, DOT--
WE'VE GOT A
DATE!



ROCKY!

UH-HUH!
SURPRISED?

ROCKY WAS A FIGHTER--UNBEAT-
ABLE--EVEN OUT OF THE RING!
BEFORE I KNEW WHAT HIT ME,
HE HAD ME IN A CAB ON THE WAY
TO DINNER!

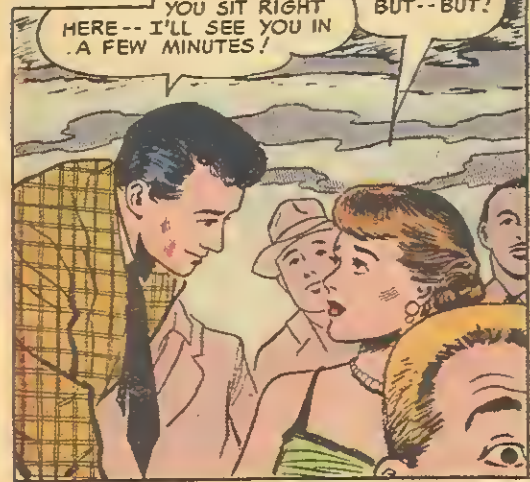
SIT BACK AND ENJOY
YOURSELF! TONIGHT'S GOING
TO BE A NIGHT TO
REMEMBER!



IT WAS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER! I HAD NEVER KNOWN A
BOY SO SURE OF HIMSELF--AND YET SO CHARMING! EVERY
MOMENT WITH HIM WAS ELECTRIC WITH EXCITEMENT!



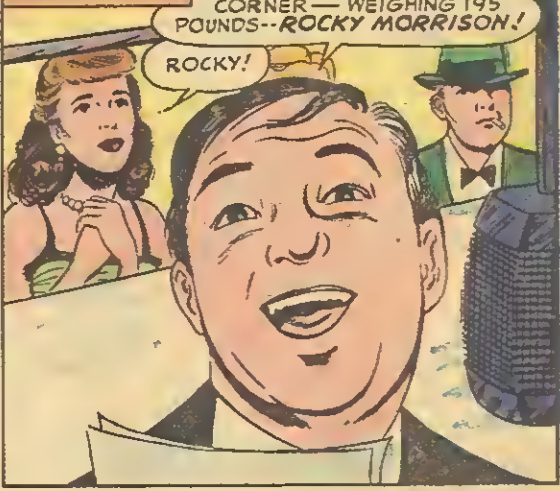
HE TOOK ME TO A DINGY, PACKED HALL--AND LEFT ME!



YOU SIT RIGHT HERE-- I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW MINUTES!

BUT--BUT!

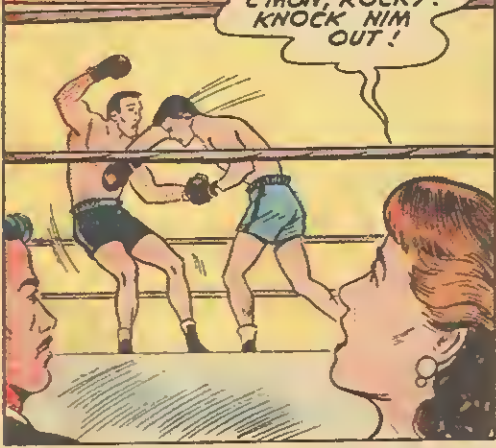
AND LATER ...



INTRODUCING--IN THIS CORNER--WEIGHING 195 POUNDS--**ROCKY MORRISON!**

ROCKY!

MY HEART WAS IN MY THROAT! SEEING **ROCKY** IN THE RING--FIGHTING WITH THE FURY AND GRACE OF AN ANGRY PANTHER--**THRILLED ME!**



C'MON, **ROCKY!** KNOCK HIM OUT!

WELL, DOT, HOW DID YOU LIKE IT?



OH, YOU WERE WONDERFUL, **ROCKY!** ESPECIALLY IN THE THIRD INNING, WHEN YOU BEAT HIM UP!

DRESSING ROOM

ROUND, NOT INNING, MY DEAR!

AFTER THAT, I CAME TO UNDERSTAND BOXING--AND TO LOVE **ROCKY** MORE--THAN I THOUGHT I COULD LOVE ANYBODY! WE WERE TOGETHER EVERY POSSIBLE MOMENT! ONE NIGHT--AFTER **ROCKY'S** FIGHT...



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FIGHT GAME NOW, HONEY?

I LOVE TO WATCH YOU FIGHT--YOU'RE SO GRACEFUL AND POWERFUL! BUT--BUT I CAN'T STAND TO SEE YOU GET HURT! **ROCKY**--ARE YOU REALLY GETTING ANYWHERE IN THIS BUSINESS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DIDN'T I FIGHT A SEMI-FINAL TONIGHT? YOU JUST WAIT--MY BREAK WILL COME!



YES, BUT YOU'RE STILL GETTING SO LITTLE MONEY FOR ALL THAT PUNISHMENT! IS IT WORTH IT?

BUT EACH TIME ROCKY KISSED ME, I FORGOT ALL MY DOUBTS AND FEARS-- AND THRILLED TO THE FERVOR OF HIS EMBRACE!



THEN, DURING HIS NEXT FIGHT...

NO, NOT AT ALL!

SAY, AIN'T YOU ROCKY'S GIRL?
I'M JOE ANDANO-- ONE OF
ROCKY'S RED-HOT FANS! MIND
IF I CHEER WITH YOU?



TELL ME, MISS--
IF IT AIN'T BUTTING
IN-- YOU GONNA
MARRY THAT
BOY SOON?

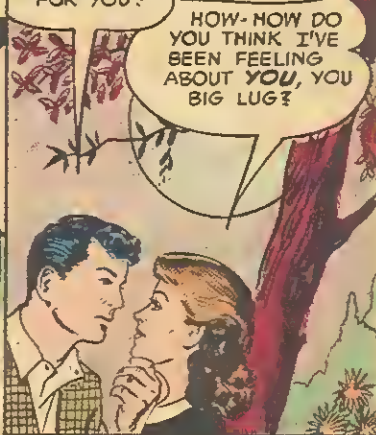
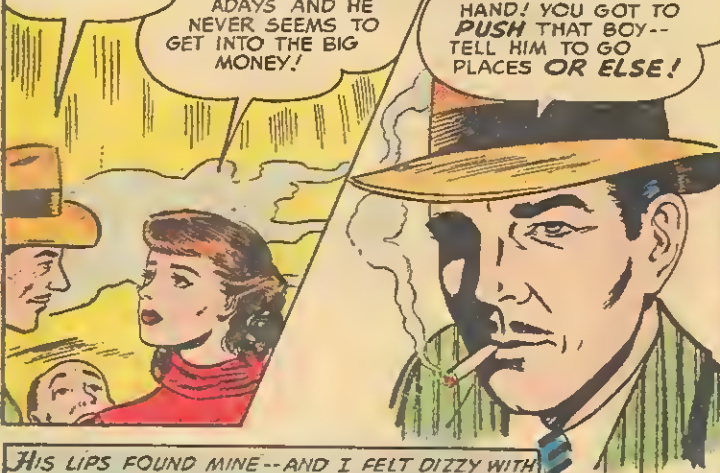
WELL, HE'S
NEVER ASKED
ME! BESIDES,
THINGS ARE SO
EXPENSIVE NOW--
ADAYS AND HE
NEVER SEEMS TO
GET INTO THE BIG
MONEY!

LOOK, SISTER!
I **KNOW** THIS
ROCKY--AND I KNOW
THE FIGHT RACKET
LIKE I KNOW MY OWN
HAND! YOU GOT TO
PUSH THAT BOY--
TELL HIM TO GO
PLACES **OR ELSE!**

ANDANO HAD BEEN SO FRIENDLY
--TAKING AN INTEREST IN ME
AND ROCKY--THAT I DECIDED
TO TAKE HIS ADVICE! I BEGAN
PRODDING ROCKY! IT SEEMED
TO WORK, TOO...FOR ONE
NIGHT...

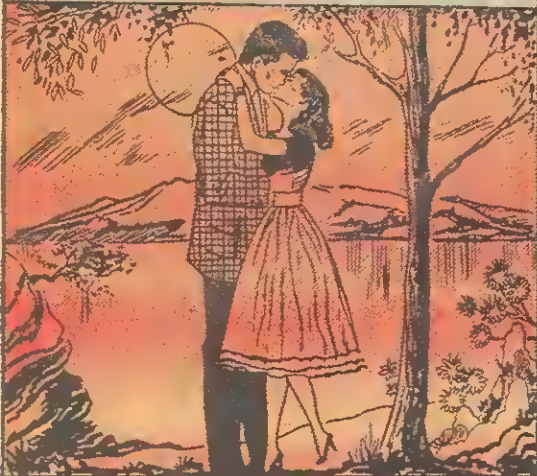
SO FAR IT'S BEEN
FUN FOR US, DOT--BUT I'VE
NEVER TOLD YOU EXACTLY HOW
I FEEL! I **LOVE** YOU,
DARLING-- I'D DO ANYTHING
FOR YOU!

HOW--HOW DO
YOU THINK I'VE
BEEN FEELING
ABOUT **YOU**, YOU
BIG LUG?

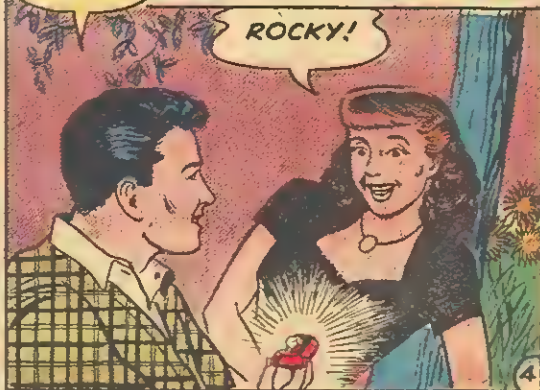


HIS LIPS FOUND MINE--AND I FELT DIZZY WITH
THE ECSTASY OF HIS EMBRACE!

HERE,
DARLING--
A LITTLE
SURPRISE!



ROCKY!



BUT, ROCKY--
THIS MUST
HAVE COST
MORE THAN
\$1000!

WHAT OF IT,
BABY? I
SIGNED A
CONTRACT TO
NIGHT TO FIGHT
THE CHAMP IN
THE GARDEN! YOU
SEE, HIS SCHEDULED
OPPONENT BROKE
HIS HAND-- I'M
REPLACING HIM!
IT'S MY **BIG
CHANCE!**



IF I PLAY BALL, I'LL BE ALL
SET! I'LL BE ABLE TO RETIRE
FROM THE RING WITH ENOUGH
TO SUPPORT YOU FOR THE
REST OF OUR LIVES!

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN-- **PLAY
BALL?**



OH, THAT'S JUST AN
EXPRESSION-- FORGET
IT! WHAT DO YOU SAY,
DOTTY? **WILL YOU
MARRY ME-- SOON?**



*I KNEW HE WAS HURT--AND MY HEART ACHED AT THE
EXPRESSION OF DISAPPOINTMENT ON HIS FACE!*

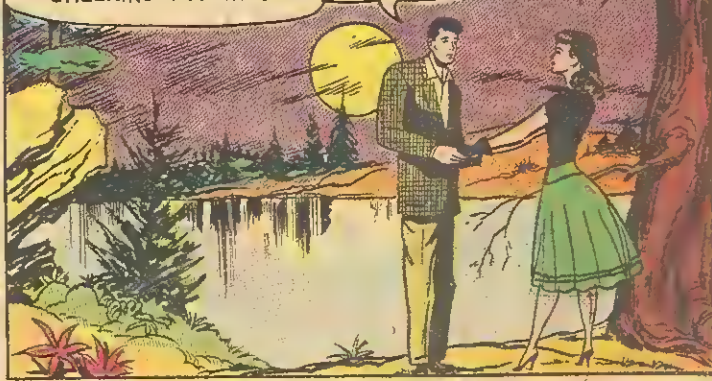
*I WANTED TO MARRY ROCKY
MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE
WORLD-- BUT SOMETHING DEEP
INSIDE ME SOUNDED A
WARNING!*

I LOVE YOU
TERRIBLY, ROCKY-- YOU
KNOW THAT! BUT I'VE GOT
TO HAVE TIME TO **THINK!**

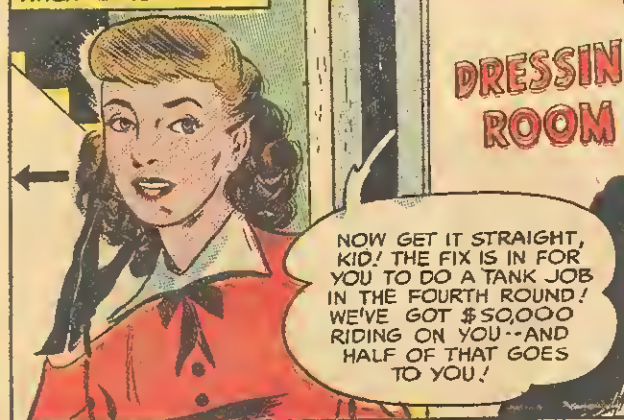


I UNDERSTAND, HONEY! I'M GOING
AWAY TOMORROW-- TO START TRAINING!
I'LL BE BACK IN TWO WEEKS FOR THE
FIGHT! PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE THERE!
-- CHEERING FOR ME!

I PROMISE,
DARLING!



*THE TWO WEEKS WERE AN AGONY OF LONGING FOR
ROCKY--AND OF PERSISTENT, NAGGING DOUBTS!
THE NIGHT OF THE FIGHT I WENT TO THE GARDEN,
AND GOT AS FAR AS ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM
WHEN I HEARD...*



**DRESSIN
ROOM**

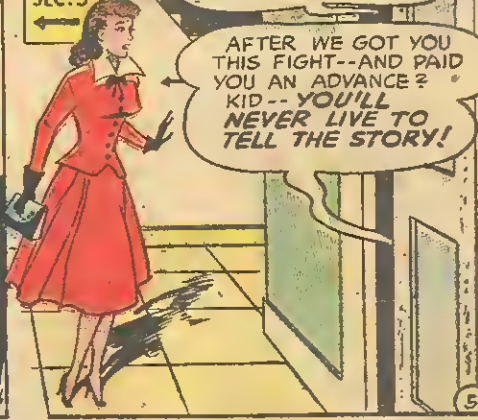
NOW GET IT STRAIGHT,
KID! THE FIX IS IN FOR
YOU TO DO A TANK JOB
IN THE FOURTH ROUND!
WE'VE GOT \$50,000
RIDING ON YOU--AND
HALF OF THAT GOES
TO YOU!

*THEN, ROCKY'S VOICE! MY SUBCON-
SCIOUS FEARS HAD BEEN RIGHT!*

SEC. 3

SUPPOSE I DON'T--GO
THROUGH WITH IT?

AFTER WE GOT YOU
THIS FIGHT--AND PAID
YOU AN ADVANCE?
KID-- **YOU'LL
NEVER LIVE TO
TELL THE STORY!**



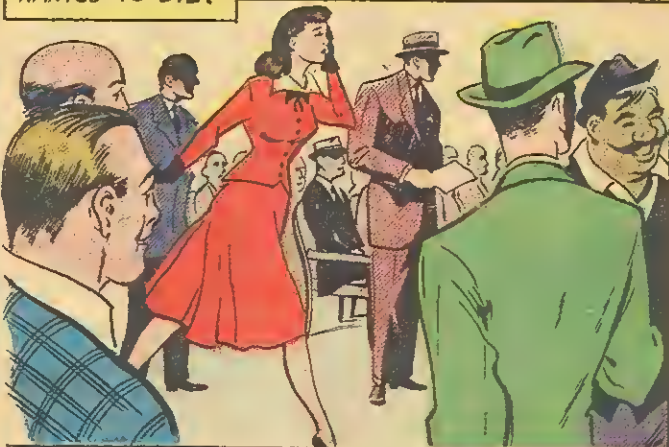
SO ROCKY WAS GOING TO THROW THE FIGHT! IT WAS ALL MY FAULT-- THE WAY I HAD PRODDED HIM TO MAKE MORE MONEY.

OKAY, ANDANO-- I-- I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!

←
RINGSIDE
SEC. 3 - 20



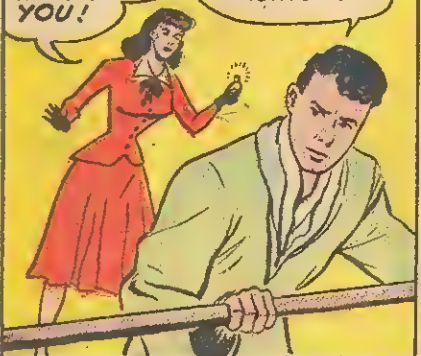
ANDANO! ANDANO WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF IT! MY HEAD THROBBED-- I COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT! I CURSED ANDANO-- ROCKY-- FIGHTING-- MYSELF! I WANTED TO DIE!



DISTRAUGHT, I FOUGHT MY WAY THROUGH THE HOWLING THROGG-- AND INTERCEPTED ROCKY AS HE MADE HIS WAY TO THE RING!

HERE, ROCKY-- TAKE YOUR FILTHY RING! I DON'T WANT IT--OR YOU!

BUT--WHY? DID YOU DECIDE YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO MARRY A FIGHTER?



NO, I'M NOT TOO GOOD TO MARRY A FIGHTER!-- BUT I'M TOO GOOD FOR A TRAITOR!

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU-- MEAN?



I HEARD YOU AND ANDANO IN THE DRESSING ROOM--AND I DESPISE YOU FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

LISTEN TO ME! I'M DOING THIS FOR US-- SO WE CAN MARRY AND HAVE A HOME AND LIVE LIKE DECENT HUMAN BEINGS! AND FOR YOU! THIS ALL STARTED WHEN ANDANO THREATENED THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU-- IF I DIDN'T PLAY BALL!

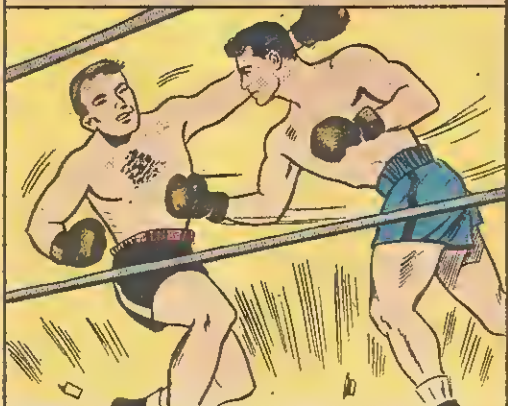


I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF ANDANO OR ANYBODY ELSE-- BUT I GUESS YOU ARE! WELL, GOODBYE, ROCKY! I ONLY HOPE YOU CAN LIVE WITH YOURSELF AFTER TONIGHT!

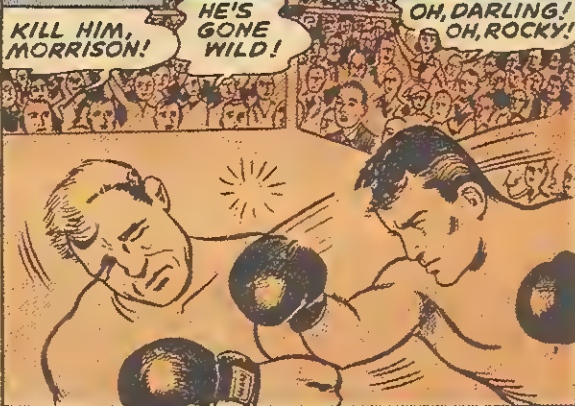
WAIT, DOT!



I TURNED MY BACK ON ROCKY AND THE FIGHT-- I COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH! BLINDED BY SCALDING TEARS, I GROPED TOWARD THE EXIT! SUDDENLY, THE CLANG OF THE BELL-- AND THE TUMULTUOUS ROAR OF THE CROWD-- STOPPED ME!



I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! ROCKY WAS FIGHTING LIKE A MAN POSSESSED-- SMASHING THE CHAMPION INTO A PULP! WHAT WAS HAPPENING? OVER THE DEAFENING ROAR OF THE CROWD, I HEARD MY OWN VOICE SCREAMING-- SCREAMING TO ROCKY!

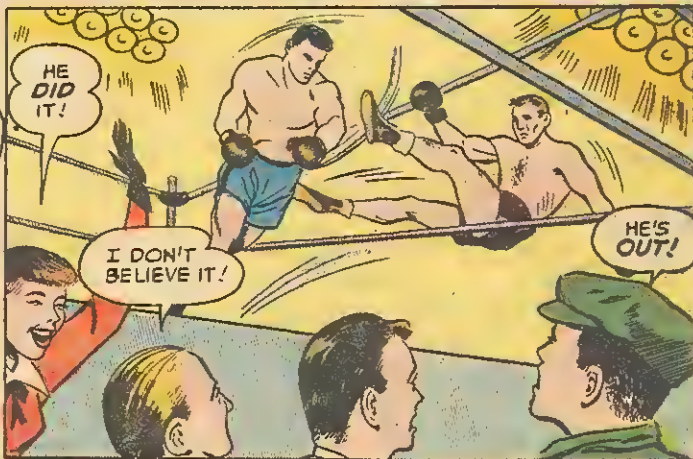


KILL HIM, MORRISON!

HE'S GONE WILD!

OH, DARLING! OH, ROCKY!

THIS IS THE MOST AMAZING UPSET I'VE EVER SEEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! ROCKY IS A WILD TIGER OUT THERE-- RUTHLESS, OVERWHELMING! HE'S PULVERIZING THE CHAMPION! IT'S AS IF ROCKY WERE TRYING TO PROVE SOMETHING!



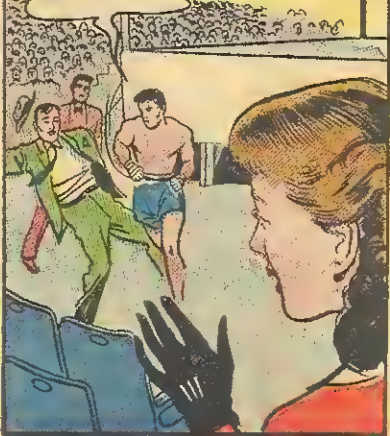
HE DID IT!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

HE'S OUT!

ROCKY RACED OUT OF THE RING-- AND AS I RUSHED TOWARD HIM--

YOU FILTHY RAT!



I WAS OBVIOUS TO THE THOUSANDS OF SCREAMING SPECTATORS IN THE GARDEN-- AND THE MILLIONS WATCHING ON TELEVISION! I HAD TO HOLD ROCKY-- TO TELL HIM I LOVED HIM-- NOW AND FOREVER!

ROCKY HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS GOING TO SEE THE BOXING COMMISSIONER IMMEDIATELY-- AND NAME NAMES TO BREAK UP THE GAMBLING SYNDICATE WHICH TRIED TO TAKE OVER BOXING HERE TONIGHT! YOU'RE PUTTING YOURSELF ON THE SPOT, ROCKY! WHAT LED YOU TO DO IT?



THIS!

OUR LIPS TOUCHED-- AND CLUNG-- IN A PULSATING PROMISE OF TENDER LOVE! OH, ROCKY-- MY CHAMPION!

--AND NEW HEAVY-WEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD!



The End

GOODNIGHT KISS

IT WAS TIME to leave the party and Blanche could feel the stirrings of panicky anticipation in her heart. As Mal helped her into her coat, she wondered which of the two sensations gripped her more strongly, the panic or the anticipation.

"The car's out front," Mal said, taking her arm. She could feel the warmth and strength of his hand through her coat sleeve.

"Will he...want to kiss me...?" she wondered. "And what will I do if he does? And what will I do if he doesn't?"

This was Blanche Rhodes' first date with Malcolm Walker and even on so slight an acquaintance, she knew that Mal was her kind of man. He was handsome, quiet-spoken, gentle. And under the gentleness ran a current of firm, masculine strength. He liked her too, she could tell. But there remained the problem of what his attitude would be when he discovered that a modern girl like Blanche, bright and full of vivacious chatter, had old-fashioned principles.

"Comfortable?" Mal asked, turning for an instant from the wheel to look at Blanche.

She smiled assent, studying his profile, in the moonlight that streamed in through the windshield. Soon, they would be at her house. Would he reach for her, taking it for granted that all girls kiss their dates without giving it a thought?

Blanche didn't. Somehow, she felt that wasting kisses was a waste of herself. Kisses repeated often might become meaningless in time. And when Blanche kissed a man, she wanted it to mean something!

"Did you enjoy the party?" Mal

asked.

"I loved it! It was more fun than I've had in ages!"

"I hoped you'd say that," Mal smiled. "You see, I had a great time, too. And I think most of it came from just being with you!"

Blanche said nothing as he parked the car in front of her house, but her heart began to pound with frightening, thunderous insistence. Was he paving the way for a session of light-hearted love-making?

"It...it's getting rather late," she said nervously. She was anxious not to spoil the mood of that lovely evening.

"Don't go yet," Mal said. "There's something I want..."

The glare of headlights blazed suddenly into Mal's car as another car pulled up to the curb behind them. In the rear vision mirror, Mal could see the driver, struggling at the wheel.

"He's having a rough time parking," he said and then, without warning, the car behind them lunged forward, smacking into Mal's rear bumper...and catapulting Blanche right into Mal's arms! There was neither time to think nor to speak. He was holding her and his lips were on hers.

It was a heavenly kiss. And somehow, Blanche knew that it had meaning for Mal, too. And when it was over, Mal said, "I've got to give that driver a special award for thoughtfulness. He couldn't have done me a greater favor!"

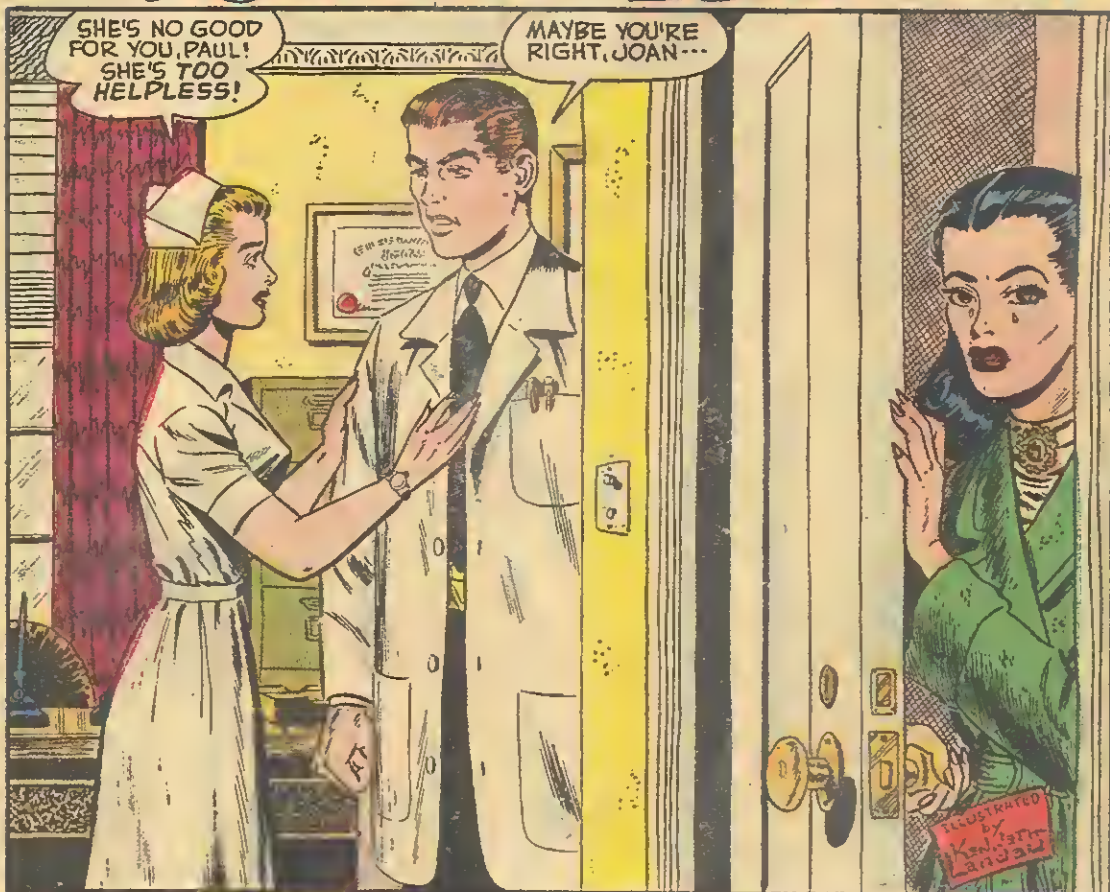
"What...what did you want to ask me?" Blanche reminded him.

"When you would see me again," Mal replied. "If you would see me again!"

Blanche started to answer when that car in back jolted forward again and made all words unnecessary!

ALL THE MEN I'D EVER KNOWN HAD BEEN CHARMED AND FASCINATED BY MY FEMININE, HELPLESS WAYS! IT WAS A TECHNIQUE THAT NEVER MISSED---TILL I MET DOCTOR PAUL STACY AND REALLY FELL IN LOVE AT LAST---ONLY TO FIND THAT I WAS LOSING HIM BECAUSE---

They CALLED me HELPLESS!



SHE'S NO GOOD FOR YOU, PAUL! SHE'S TOO HELPLESS!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, JOAN---

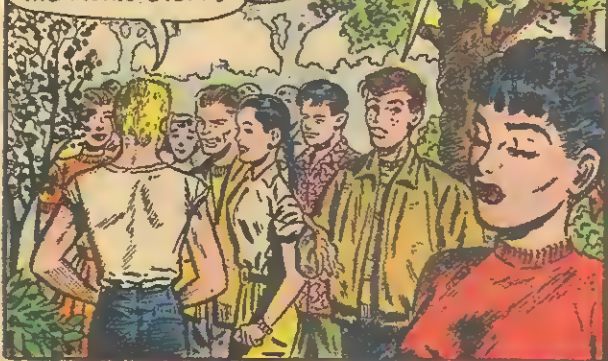
I WAS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL WHEN I DISCOVERED AN EASY PATH TO POPULARITY---

OKAY---IT'LL BE THE BOYS AGAINST THE GIRLS---AND THE TEAM THAT LOSES THE RACE HAS TO CLEAN UP ALL THE PICNIC STUFF!--

AREN'T YOU GOING TO RUN IN THE RACE, ELLEN?

GOODNESS, NO, JERRY! I GUESS I'M JUST NO GOOD AT THINGS LIKE THAT! I WISH I WEREN'T SO HELPLESS, BUT---

OH, NO, ELLEN, I LIKE YOU THAT WAY! CAN I TAKE YOU HOME AFTER THE PICNIC?



I KNEW I COULD HAVE RUN IN THAT RACE AS WELL OR BETTER THAN ANY OF THE OTHER GIRLS! BUT I ALSO KNEW THAT WHEN IT WAS OVER, I'D BE THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T OVERHEATED AND MESSY-LOOKING!

WANT SOME MORE POP, ELLEN?

LET ME GET YOU ANOTHER SANDWICH!



MY "HELPLESS" TECHNIQUE CARRIED ME SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH ALL MY DATES! AND, AS I GREW UP, IT BECAME SECOND NATURE TO ME...

I FEEL TERRIBLE MAKING YOU WORK LIKE THIS, ALLEN, BUT...

DON'T BE SILLY, BABY, I'LL HAVE IT FIXED IN A JIFFY!



IT WAS A SIMPLE CHORE I COULD HAVE DONE MYSELF... BUT ALLEN BALES WAS THE HANDSOMEST BOY IN TOWN!

JUST TO SHOW YOU I'M NOT COMPLETELY HELPLESS, I MADE US SOME FRIED CHICKEN! CONSIDER IT A REWARD FOR A REFRIGERATOR FIXER, FIRST CLASS!



I THINK THIS IS THE WAY NATURE INTENDED THINGS, DON'T YOU? THAT GIRLS SHOULD BE... WELL... DEPENDENT ON CAPABLE, CLEVER MEN?

IT SOUNDS GOOD TO ME... IF I'M THE MAN AND YOU'RE THE GIRL!



YES, LIFE WAS AGREEABLE AND FILLED WITH FUN, EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T TAKE SERIOUSLY ANY OF THE BOYS I KNEW! THINGS FIRST CHANGED WHEN A FRIEND SUGGESTED...

GIVE BLOOD? OH, GRACE, I COULDN'T!

SURE YOU CAN... THERE'S NOTHING TO IT! ANYWAY I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT AT THE HOSPITAL BLOOD BANK, SO YOU CAN AT LEAST KEEP ME COMPANY!



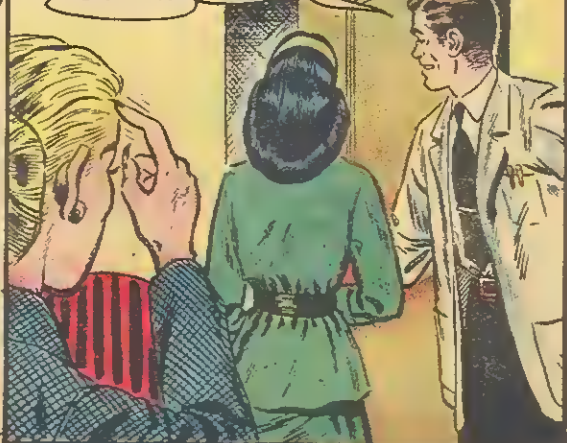
AND SO IT WAS THAT I FIRST SET EYES ON PAUL STACY... DOCTOR PAUL STACY...

THIS IS ELLEN CHAMBERS, PAUL! I WISH YOU COULD PERSUADE HER THAT GIVING BLOOD WON'T HURT HER!

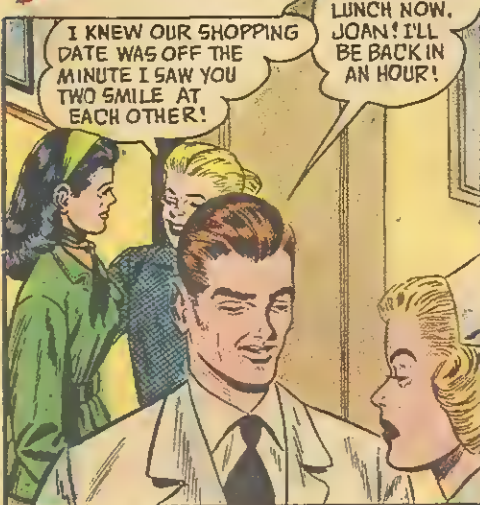
OF COURSE IT WON'T HURT ME, GRACE! DON'T BE SILLY!



WE USUALLY GIVE DONORS A CUP OF TEA AFTERWARDS... BUT I'D RATHER TAKE YOU TO LUNCH!



TWENTY MINUTES LATER---



I KNEW OUR SHOPPING DATE WAS OFF THE MINUTE I SAW YOU TWO SMILE AT EACH OTHER!

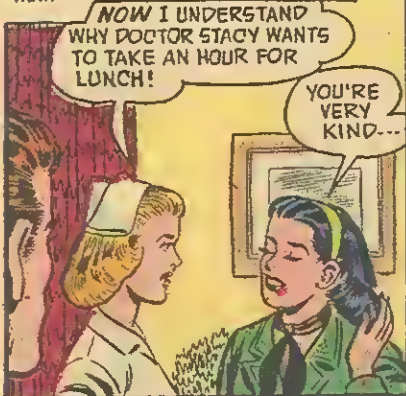
I'M GOING TO LUNCH NOW. JOAN! I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR!

AN HOUR! BUT THERE'S THE MEETING IN DOCTOR KENTON'S OFFICE---



I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN OUT OF THAT!

AS PAUL INTRODUCED ME TO JOAN LANNING, I KNEW THAT SHE SPELLED TROUBLE! THE LOOK THAT FLASHED BETWEEN US WAS THE AGE-OLD ONE OF TWO WOMEN WHO WANT THE SAME MAN---



NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY DOCTOR STACY WANTS TO TAKE AN HOUR FOR LUNCH!

YOU'RE VERY KIND---

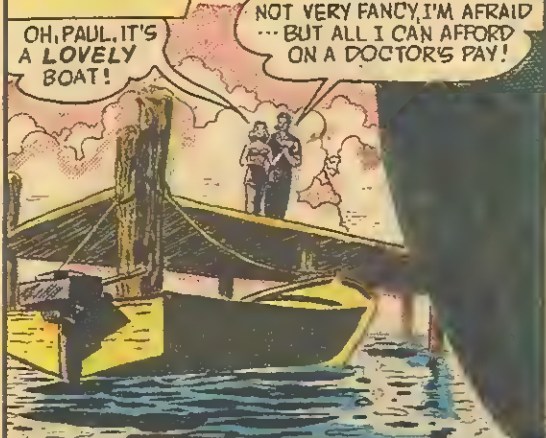
PAUL AND I HAD ONLY THREE DATES TOGETHER BEFORE WE BOTH KNEW WE WERE IN LOVE---



OH, MY DARLING!



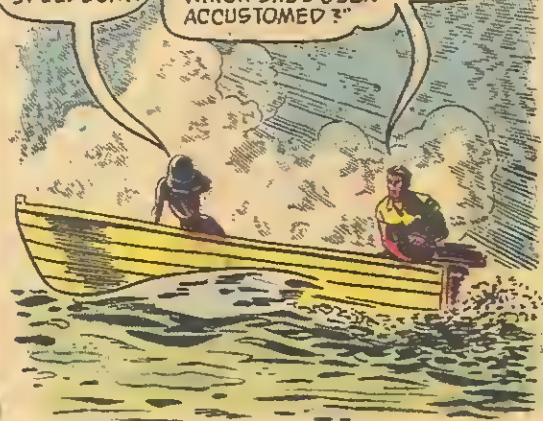
HIS WORK AT THE HOSPITAL DIDN'T GIVE HIM MUCH TIME OFF! AT THE BEGINNING, I DIDN'T MIND, BECAUSE THE FEW DAYS AND EVENINGS WE HAD TOGETHER WERE SO MARVELOUS---



OH, PAUL, IT'S A LOVELY BOAT!

NOT VERY FANCY, I'M AFRAID ... BUT ALL I CAN AFFORD ON A DOCTOR'S PAY!

DAD JUST BOUGHT A NEW BOAT, TOO---A SPEEDBOAT!



OUT OF MY CLASS! NOW WHEN I TELL HIM I WANT TO MARRY YOU, HE'LL SAY: 'CAN YOU TAKE HER BOATING IN THE STYLE TO WHICH SHE'S BEEN ACCUSTOMED?'



HOLD THE TILLER FOR A WHILE, WILL YOU, ELLEN? I WANT TO GET SOMETHING FROM THE TOOL CHEST!

OH, PAUL, I COULDN'T-- I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

PAUL WAS AN INSTINCTIVE REMARK AND REFUSAL-- BASED ON THE "HELPLESSNESS" THAT MEN HAD ALWAYS FOUND SO ATTRACTIVE! BUT, FROM PAUL'S SUDDEN FROWN, I KNEW IT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE---

I CERTAINLY DO NOT!

DON'T YOU THINK GIRLS SHOULD BE SORT OF-- DEPENDENT?



IT WAS ONLY A TINY INCIDENT-- BUT IT SHOULD HAVE WARNED ME THAT PAUL WAS NOT LIKE THE OTHER MEN I'D KNOWN! THE FOLLOWING WEEK---

I'M SO GLAD YOU ASKED ME TO COME ALONG ON ONE OF YOUR CALLS!

IT'S REALLY MORE OF A SOCIAL VISIT! THE PALMERS ARE A GREAT OLD COUPLE, AND THEIR GRAND-CHILD, JOHNNY, IS A FINE KID!



SOON, WE WERE IN THE COMFORTABLE KITCHEN OF THE PALMER FARM-- WHICH SEEMED A THOUSAND MILES FROM CIVILIZATION---

ISN'T IT LONELY ALL THE WAY UP HERE IN THE VALLEY?

NOT REALLY-- WE ALL LOVE IT!

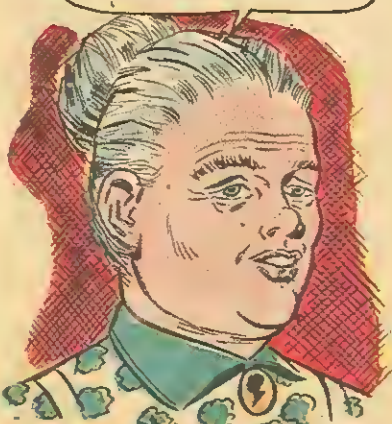
HAVE TO MOVE ONE OF THESE DAYS, THOUGH! THE OLD DAM IS 'BOUT READY TO BLOW A GASKET-- IT'S LEAKIN' LIKE A SIEVE IN FOUR PLACES ALREADY!



THEN WE'LL MOVE! WHATEVER HAS TO BE DONE, PA, WE CAN DO TOGETHER! I ALWAYS SAY LIFE IS HARD, BUT A MAN AND WOMAN CAN WORK WONDERS-- TOGETHER!

I LOOKED UP AT PAUL JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE GLANCE HE WAS GIVING ME-- A DOUBTFUL, WONDERING GLANCE THAT CHILLED MY HEART!

AS IF HE'S WONDERING IF HE'S MADE A MISTAKE ABOUT ME-- WONDERING IF I'M TOO-- TOO HELPLESS TO BE A DOCTOR'S WIFE!



AFTER THAT, PAUL'S WORK AT THE HOSPITAL GREW HEAVIER AND HEAVIER, AND I ALMOST NEVER SAW HIM! ONE EVENING, TWO WEEKS LATER...



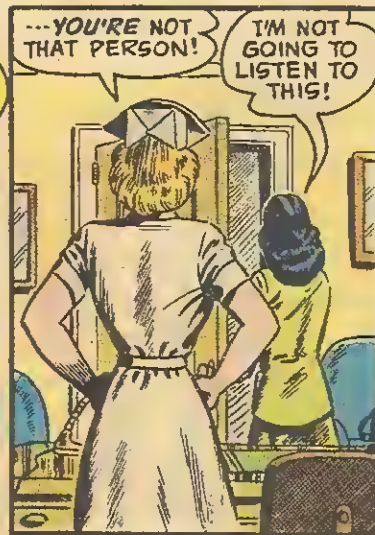
I'M SORRY, MISS CHAMBERS, BUT DOCTOR STACY TOLD ME TO TELL YOU HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TONIGHT!



AND THAT'S JUST FINE WITH YOU, ISN'T IT, MISS LANNING?

WELL... SINCE WE'RE SHOWING OUR CLAWS...

...YOU'RE ALL **WRONG** FOR PAUL! HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO LEAN ON WHEN HE'S TIRED... SOMEONE STRONG AND DEPENDABLE TO HELP HIM WHEN THE GOING IS ROUGH... AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS...



...YOU'RE NOT THAT PERSON!

I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO THIS!

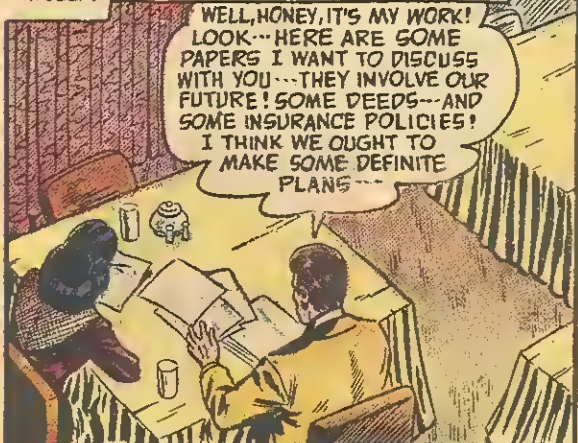


WHEN I FINALLY SAW HIM, TWO NIGHTS LATER, I DIDN'T MENTION THE ARGUMENT WITH JOAN...

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER NIGHT, DEAR! I JUST COULDN'T GET AWAY!

I'M BEGINNING TO HATE THAT HOSPITAL OF YOURS!

ONCE AGAIN, I SAW THAT STRANGE, FLEETING LOOK OF DOUBT CROSS HIS FACE! I KNEW THAT ALL THESE THINGS I SAID WERE WRONG, BUT, SOMEHOW I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF!



WELL, HONEY, IT'S MY WORK! LOOK... HERE ARE SOME PAPERS I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU... THEY INVOLVE OUR FUTURE! SOME DEEDS--AND SOME INSURANCE POLICIES! I THINK WE OUGHT TO MAKE SOME DEFINITE PLANS...



OH, PAUL, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SUCH THINGS! THEY'RE TOO DEEP FOR ME!

DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN FACING ANY SORT OF GROWN-UP RESPONSIBILITIES, ELLEN?



NO MATTER WHAT I ASK---A LITTLE THING LIKE TAKING A BOAT TILLER OR A BIG ONE LIKE HELPING ME MAKE FINANCIAL PLANS FOR OUR FUTURE--- YOU'RE TOO HELPLESS!

MAYBE I'M NOT YOUR SORT OF GIRL AT ALL! MAYBE YOU SHOULD MARRY SOMEONE LIKE JOAN LANNING!



THE ARGUMENT GREW WORSE ---UNTIL---

GOOD-BYE!



AFTER THAT CAME THE TEARS---AND THEY WERE PARTICULARLY BITTER BECAUSE, DEEP IN MY HEART, I KNEW THAT PAUL HAD BEEN RIGHT! I'D CARRIED MY SILLY "HELPLESSNESS" TOO FAR!

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT---I COULDN'T BEHAVE THAT WAY WITH A MAN I--- REALLY LOVED!

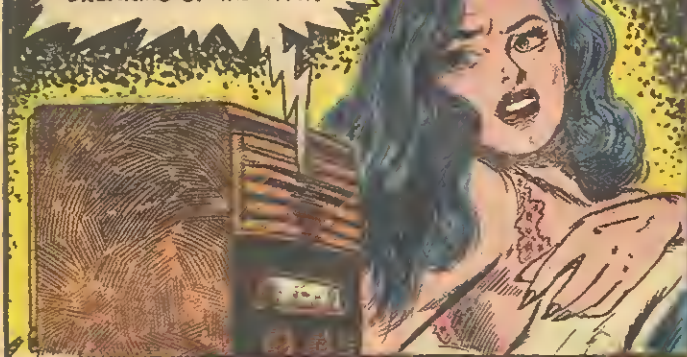


I LAY AWAKE MOST OF THE NIGHT, LISTENING TO THE TUMULTUOUS RAIN---AND CRYING OVER THE WRECKAGE OF WHAT HAD BEEN MY GREATEST HAPPINESS!



TURNING ON THE RADIO TO DROWN OUT THE STORM, I HEARD A CHILLING ANNOUNCEMENT!

--- AND RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUING FOR THE FAMILIES MAROONED IN THE UPPER VALLEY BY THE BREAKING OF THE DAM!



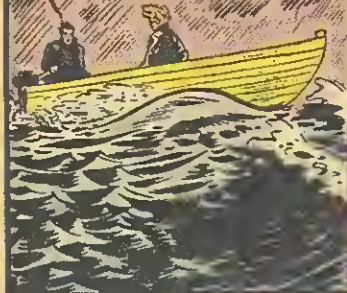
ALL ARE SAFE EXCEPT THOSE ON THE PALMER FARM AT THE FAR END OF THE VALLEY! DOCTOR PAUL STACY AND NURSE JOAN LANNING ARE EVEN NOW ATTEMPTING A RESCUE BY BOAT!



AT THAT MOMENT---

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
JOAN?

Y-YES...BUT IF
THE OTHER
RESCUERS
CAN'T REACH
THEM, HOW
CAN WE?



WE CAN GET THROUGH
BY TURNER'S CREEK!
IT'LL BE DANGEROUS...
BUT I THINK WE CAN
MAKE IT! IT WAS WONDER-
FUL OF YOU TO VOLUNTEER
TO COME ALONG---



I---I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE
ANYTHING LIKE *THIS*! HADN'T
WE BETTER---TURN BACK? I'M
SCARED!



AND AS THE PERILOUS MOMENTS PASSED---

NOTHING HAS BEEN
HEARD FROM DOCTOR
STACY'S BOAT FOR OVER
AN HOUR! IT IS FEARED
BOTH HE AND NURSE
LANNING HAVE BEEN
LOST!

OH--
NO!



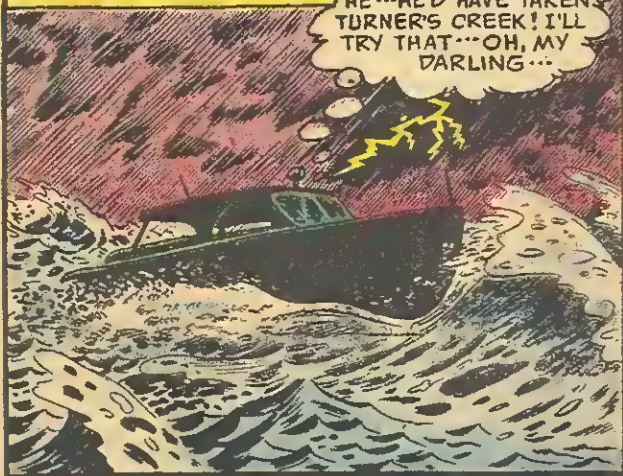
SOMEHOW, I FOUND MYSELF OUT OF THE HOUSE---RUNNING
THE SIX BLOCKS TO THE PIER WHERE DAD'S SPEEDBOAT WAS
MOORED---

MAYBE HE'S STILL
ALIVE---AND NEEDS
HELP! I'VE GOT TO DO
IT---I'VE GOT TO!

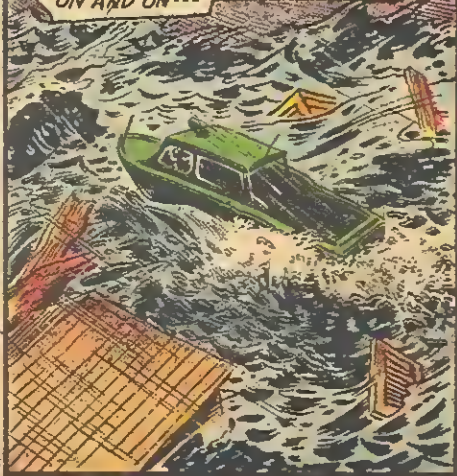


FEAR? YES, IT WAS THERE, ALMOST PARALYZING ME...
BUT LOVE DROVE ME ONWARD!

HE---HE'D HAVE TAKEN
TURNER'S CREEK! I'LL
TRY THAT---OH, MY
DARLING---



AT CHURNING SPEED---THROUGH THE
WRECKAGE---CHOKED WATERS---
ON AND ON---





OHhhh!



JOAN! THE TILLER!



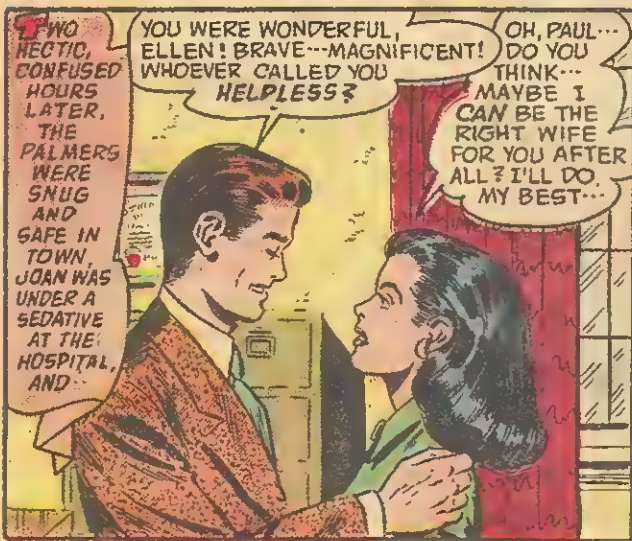
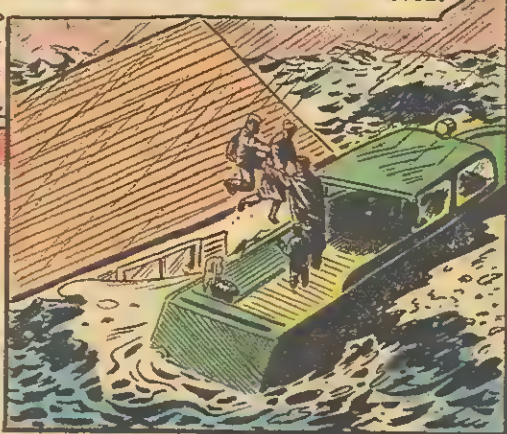
LOOK OUT!
WE'RE GOING
OVER!

MY VOICE WAS HOARSE FROM SHOUTING, AND THEN, WHEN I'D ALMOST GIVEN UP HOPE---

THAT SOUNDS
LIKE JOAN!

HELP...
HELP...!

MOMENTS LATER, I SPOTTED THEM, AND HELPED THEM CLAMBER ABOARD! AND BEFORE LONG, WE WERE LIFTING THE PALMERS AND JOHNNY FROM FROM THE ROOF OF THEIR SUBMERGED HOUSE!

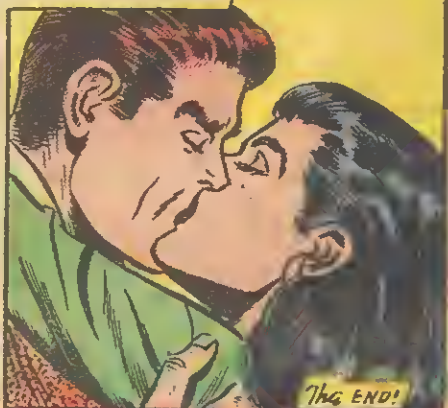


TWO
HECTIC,
CONFUSED
HOURS
LATER,
THE
PALMERS
WERE
SNUG
AND
SAFE IN
TOWN.
JOAN WAS
UNDER A
SEDATIVE
AT THE
HOSPITAL,
AND...

YOU WERE WONDERFUL,
ELLEN! BRAVE---MAGNIFICENT!
WHOEVER CALLED YOU
HELPLESS?

OH, PAUL...
DO YOU
THINK...
MAYBE I
CAN BE THE
RIGHT WIFE
FOR YOU AFTER
ALL? I'LL DO
MY BEST...

THIS LIPS ON MINE WERE HIS ANSWER...
AND I KNEW THAT MY "HELPLESS" DAYS
WERE OVER... THAT, TOGETHER, WE HAD
A LIFE TO BUILD... AND IT WOULD TAKE
WORK... AND LOVE!



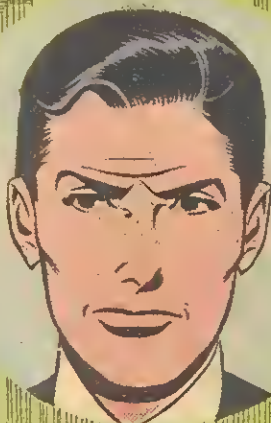
The END!

Here's the fascinating tale as we heard it-- straight from the principals! It's the story **BEHIND** the headlines--of a great love, flaring tempers and...

Calculating Hearts!

I MADE HIM WHAT HE IS TODAY, NATIONALLY FAMOUS-- A **GLAMOUR BOY!** EVERYTHING HE HAS-- I GOT FOR HIM!

AS USUAL, SHE'S TRYING TO SELL A BILL OF GOODS! I WAS JUST A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY GUY--DOING A JOB I BELIEVED IN! SURE, SHE CHANGED ALL THAT--TO MAKE HERSELF A FORTUNE!



I'M VALERIE STONE, SOMETIMES CALLED "THE ADVERTISING QUEEN". AT THE TIME THIS STORY BEGINS, I WAS RUNNING A SMALL AGENCY--AND HAVING PLENTY OF TROUBLE...

NOT ONE OF THESE MALE MODELS COULD SELL CORN FLAKES! NOW LISTEN TO ME--I WANT A GUY WHO CAN PUT THIS AGENCY IN THE BIG MONEY--A GUY WHO HAS IT!

BUT BOSS, WE'VE SHOWN YOU PICTURES OF EVERY PROFESSIONAL IN TOWN!

THEN WE'LL GET AN AMATEUR! LOOK AT THE DAILY NEWSPAPER-- YOU'LL FIND TEN BETTER-LOOKING MEN HERE THAN IN YOUR WHOLE ROGUES' GALLERY OF PRETTY BOYS!

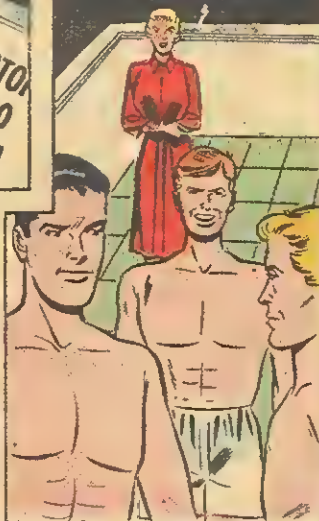


THERE -- LOOK AT *THAT* GORGEOUS HUNK OF MAN! NOT PRETTY, BUT RUGGEDLY *HANDSOME*-- JUST THE TYPE TO MAKE HALF THE FEMALES IN AMERICA *SWOON*! BOYS, START DOING A LITTLE LEG WORK ON MR. *BOB MERTON*!



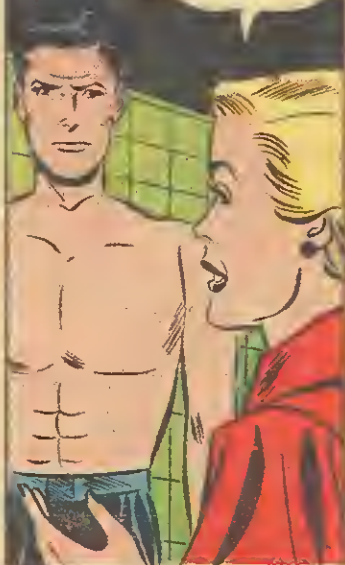
LEARNING THAT HE WORKED AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN A SLUM SETTLEMENT HOUSE, I WASTED NO TIME...

FINE! HE'S EVEN BETTER IN PERSON! SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT!



AFTER INTRODUCING MYSELF... BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND!

BETTER LET ME EXPLAIN THEN! I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION THAT'LL PUT US BOTH ON EASY STREET!



WHEN I'D EXPLAINED THE SITUATION...

SORRY, MISS STONE--BUT I'M SATISFIED WITH MY JOB *HERE*! MY AMBITION IS TO BUILD A BIGGER AND BETTER COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE KIDS IN THESE SLUMS, SO...

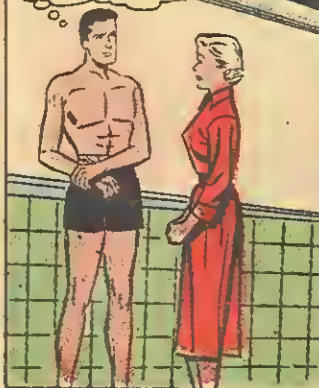
THE *CHICKEN FEED* YOU MAKE HERE ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOUR PLANS. ANY! WITH ME YOU'LL WIND UP *RICH*!



SHE'D TOUCHED A VITAL SPOT-- BECAUSE BUILDING THAT SETTLEMENT MEANT MORE TO ME THAN ANYTHING! BUT HER NEXT STATEMENT WAS THE CLINCHER...

THIS IS A *BUSINESS* PROPOSITION, MR. MERTON! *STRICTLY BUSINESS*!

AFTER ALL THOSE LOVE-STARTED FEMALES I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH--THIS HUMAN ADDING MACHINE IS *REFRESHING*!



OKAY, MISS STONE -- IT'S A *DEAL*!

FINE, BE AT MY OFFICE AT NINE TOMORROW -- *SHARP*!



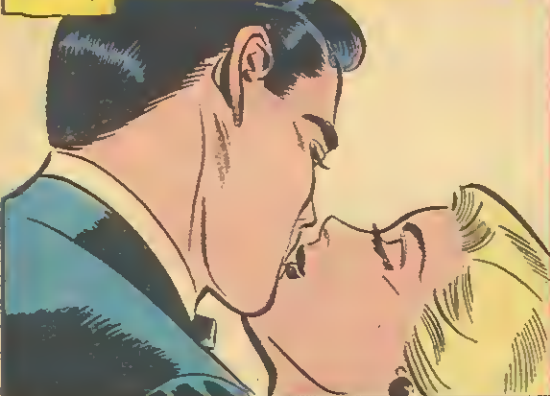
BOB MERTON MEANT NOTHING TO ME--EXCEPT FINANCIALLY, DESPITE HIS DEVASTATING GOOD LOOKS! I PUT HIM TO WORK IMMEDIATELY--AND WHEN THE FIRST SALES REPORTS CAME THROUGH WEEKS LATER...

YIPPEE! I KNEW IT!

WOW! USING BOB'S PICTURE ON THAT SOAP ADD HAS TRIPLED SALES!



DURING THE LONG KISS BEFORE CAMERAS--IT HAPPENED! THE FEEL OF HER ARMS ABOUT ME DID SOMETHING! SUDDENLY I REALIZED THAT SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL, EXCITING WOMAN-- AND THAT MY HEART WAS BEATING MADLY!



VALERIE STONE WAS AN ICICLE, BUT I COULDN'T HELP ADMIRING HER ABILITY AND BRILLIANCE IN BUSINESS! I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I FELT ANYTHING MORE FOR HER UNTIL...

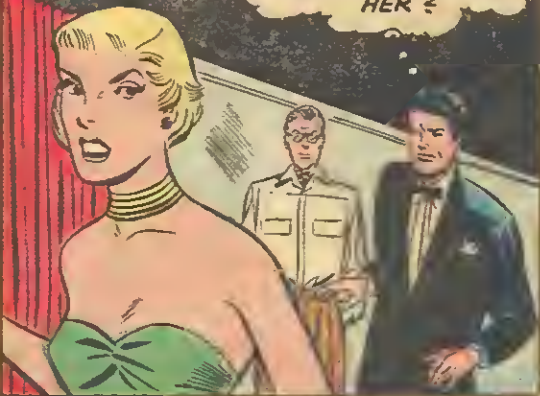
THE MODEL JUST CALLED TO SAY SHE'S SICK! WHAT DO WE DO? POSTPONE THE SHOTS?

NOTHING DOING! THIS IS A RUSH JOB! LET ME HAVE THAT EVENING GOWN--I'LL FILL IN!



OKAY, BOYS -- PRINT IT! I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE WAITING FOR THE PROOFS!

IT-IT MEANT NOTHING TO HER--JUST SOMETHING IN THE DAY'S WORK! HOLY SMOKE--AM I IN LOVE WITH HER--HER?



SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER...

IT'S AFTER FIVE, VALERIE! I WAS THINKING --MAYBE YOU AND I COULD HAVE A BITE TOGETHER!

SORRY, I'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO CLEAN UP! I'M ANGLING FOR SOME OF THE BIGGEST ACCOUNTS IN THE COUNTRY! GOOD NIGHT!



WITH HER IT WAS ALWAYS MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! BUT SHE MANAGED MY CAREER SO EXPERTLY THAT WITHIN THREE MONTHS, THE MONEY WAS POURING IN! BUT WHAT DID I CARE ABOUT THAT--SINCE ALL I WAS TO HER WAS A MEAL TICKET? ONE MORNING...

LOOK AT THESE RECENT PHOTOS, BOB! THEY'RE AWFUL! YOU LOOK STIFF AS A BOARD HOLDING THOSE GIRLS, ALMOST AS IF YOU DISLIKED KISSING THEM! REMEMBER, I'M BUILDING YOU UP AS A ROMANTIC DREAM-- AND ALL YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE LATELY IS A STATUE!



OH, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SHOW ME HOW TO DO IT BETTER!

CERTAINLY! HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING WRONG! PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND ME-- AND PULL ME CLOSE!



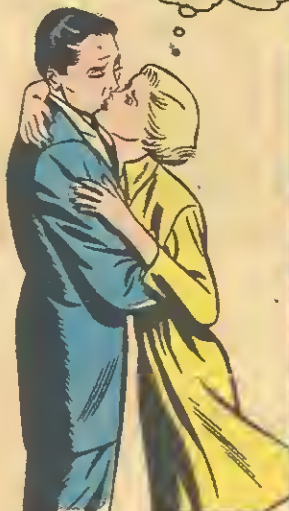
I COULDN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!
AS HER ARMS WENT AROUND MY
NECK, ALL THE PENT-UP FEELING
WITHIN ME EXPLODED! I MET HER
LIPS HUNGRILY, FIERCELY...

GOOD HEAVENS! THIS KISS--HE
MEANS IT! OH, NO! THIS'LL
RUIN EVERYTHING!



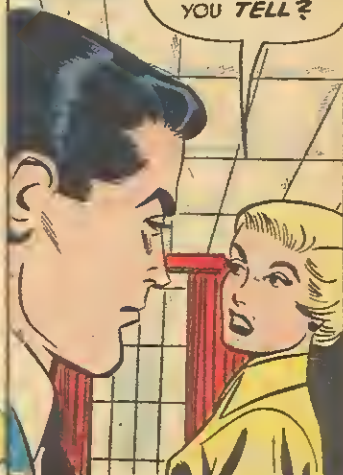
ALL 'RIGHT--
SO NOW YOU
KNOW! THAT'S
WHY I COULDN'T
RESPOND WITH
THE MODELS--
BECAUSE I
LOVE YOU!

THIS IS
AWFUL!
I DON'T
FEEL
A THING
FOR THIS
POOR
GOOF!
HE'S JUST
MONEY IN
THE BANK--MY
CHANCE TO RISE
TO THE HEIGHTS!



THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE
BEEN AGONY FOR ME,
VALERIE! I DIDN'T WANT TO
TELL YOU HOW I FELT--I
WANTED TO KEEP THIS
STRICTLY BUSINESS!
BUT I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY
MORE! IF YOU FEEL NOTHING
FOR ME--
I'M READY
TO CALL
THE WHOLE
THING QUITS!

BOB,
DARLING!
YOU SWEET,
BLIND
FOOL! OF
COURSE
I LOVE YOU!
COULDN'T
YOU TELL?



IF I'D TOLD HIM THE
TRUTH, I'D HAVE LOST
HIM--AND WRECKED ALL
MY PLANS! I HAD NO
CHOICE BUT TO DO AS
I DID...

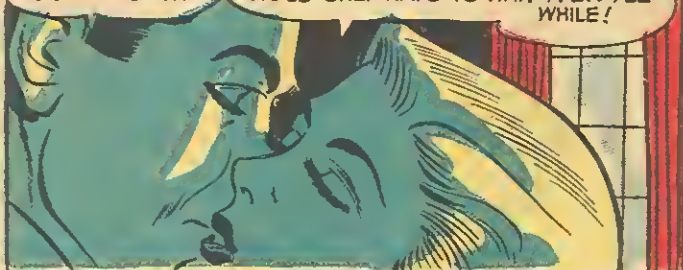
THEN LET'S
GET MARRIED,
DARLING--
RIGHT AWAY!

OH, SWEET-
HEART-- IF
WE ONLY
COULD! BUT
WE'VE SET
GOALS FOR
OURSELVES! YOU'VE
GOT TO BUILD THAT
COMMUNITY CENTER--
AND I'VE GOT TO STEER
YOU TO THE VERY TOP!
DON'T YOUR SLUM KIDS
COME FIRST--WHEN
WE'VE GOT A WHOLE
LIFETIME TO LOVE?



BUT VALERIE, I
DON'T SEE ...

PLEASE, DO IT FOR ME! BESIDES,
WE'LL ONLY HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE
WHILE!




BOB DIDN'T REALLY LOVE ME, I TOLD MYSELF! IT
WAS JUST THAT I WAS SOMETHING NEW TO HIM--A
GAL WHO WASN'T SWEEPED OFF HER FEET BY HIS CHARMS!
AND I KNEW THAT IF I DID FALL FOR HIM, THE
NOVELTY WOULD BE OVER--AND I'D BE CAST ASIDE
LIKE AN OLD SHOE! SO I WENT RUTHLESSLY AHEAD...

WHAT'S ALL
THIS, VALERIE?

A GYM I'VE SET UP IN THE OFFICE
FOR YOU! I'M ENTERING YOU IN THE
MR. AMERICA CONTEST-- AND
YOU'RE GOING TO **WIN!** AFTER THAT,
I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE OUR OWN
TICKET--AS THE GREATEST PRESS
AGENT IN THE COUNTRY!





IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, VALERIE OUTDID HERSELF AS A BRILLIANT PRESS AGENT--AND WHEN THE CONTEST WAS FINALLY HELD...

MR. BOB MERTON-- WINNER OF THE MR. AMERICA AWARD!

ISN'T HE-- BEAUTIFUL?

A DREAM!

ooo!

AND SO AT LAST-- I WAS MADE! OFFERS PILED UP-- AND WHEN I WENT TO VALERIE'S OFFICE WITH THE MOST INTERESTING OF THEM...


BOB, THIS LETTER-- I-I'VE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE AMERICAN PUBLICITY ASSOCIATION AS **WOMAN OF THE YEAR!** NEXT WEEK I MAKE MY ACCEPTANCE OVER THE RADIO! I-I'M OVERWHELMED!

I'VE GOT A SURPRISE TOO, HONEY! COME ON IN, FOLKS!

TONY HARMON, THE HEAD OF WORLD-WIDE FILMS, CAME RIGHT TO THE POINT...

I'VE BEEN WATCHING BOB'S METEORIC CAREER CLOSELY, MISS STONE-- AND I'VE DECIDED TO SIGN HIM TO PLAY THE LEAD ROLE OPPOSITE **CORINNE** HERE IN MY NEWEST FILM!

BUT I'VE TURNED THE OFFER DOWN, HONEY! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH MONEY NOW-- AND IT'S ABOUT TIME WE STARTED LEADING PRIVATE LIVES! RIGHT?



THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS LIKE A GOD-SEND-- THE PERFECT WAY TO GET RID OF BOB! ALL I HAD TO DO WAS FEIGN ENTHUSIASM! BUT WHEN CORINNE ENTERED THE PICTURE!

IT'S A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY! YOU OWE IT TO HIM AND HIS CAREER-- AND TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC-- NOT TO STAND IN HIS WAY! THINK WHAT YOU'LL BE ROBBING THEM OF-- MR. AMERICA MAKING LOVE TO ME!

THE SIGHT OF BOB AND THAT BEAUTIFUL TEMPTRESS TOGETHER DID SOMETHING TO ME-- SOMETHING STRANGE! AN UNFAMILIAR EMOTION GRIPPED ME AT THE THOUGHT OF LOSING HIM-- MAKING ME TONGUE-TIED, STAMMERING...

Y-YES, IT-- IT SEEMS A GOOD IDEA! BUT I-I DON'T--

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO TALK BUSINESS, FOLKS! WHAT SAY WE ALL GET TOGETHER TONIGHT OVER DINNER?

BY NIGHTFALL I WAS A NERVOUS WRECK! WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME? IT WASN'T POSSIBLE THAT I, ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS WOMEN, WAS SUCCUMBING TO AN EMOTION BETTER LEFT TO SILLY SCHOOLGIRLS! BUT AS I WATCHED THEM TOGETHER--

THE VAMP! THE WAY SHE SNUGGLES UP TO HIM-- FLUTTERS HER EYELIDS-- IT'S DISGUSTING! GOOD HEAVENS-- CAN IT BE THAT I'M JEALOUS?

BOB REMAINED FIRM IN HIS REFUSAL DURING THE WHOLE OF THAT AGONIZING WEEK OF PARTIES AND NIGHTCLUBS! FINALLY, WHEN I THOUGHT I SAW HIM WEAKENING BEFORE CORINNE'S CHARMS--

MR. HARMON, WOULD YOU TAKE BOB OUTSIDE FOR A SMOKE FOR JUST A MOMENT? I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO CORINNE-- ALONE!

SURE! IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO MAKE ONE MORE PITCH!

WHEN WE WERE ALONE--SOMETHING INSIDE ME GAVE WAY!

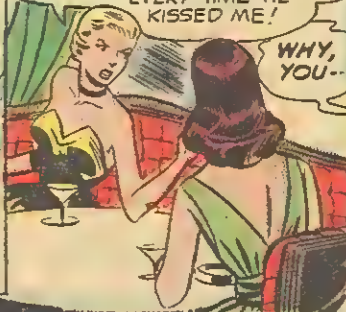
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, CORINNE-- YOU'LL NEVER CONVINCE BOB TO GO TO HOLLYWOOD WITH THAT OBVIOUS LINE!

THINK SO? WELL, I GOT NEWS FOR YOU-- BOB'S IN LOVE WITH ME! IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT--ASK HIM! THE ONLY REASON HE'S STICKING WITH YOU IS GRATITUDE-- AND BECAUSE YOU'RE NUTS ABOUT HIM! HE TOLD ME SO HIMSELF!



HER WORDS MADE ME SEE RED! SOMEHOW I HAD TO PUT THIS SMIRKING FEMALE IN HER PLACE!

ME? IN LOVE WITH BOB? HA-HA! GET THIS STRAIGHT-- THE ONLY THING HE MEANS TO ME IS MONEY! SURE, I PUT ON AN ACT-- OTHERWISE HE WOULD HAVE LEFT! BUT I DETESTED IT EVERY TIME HE KISSED ME!



WHY, YOU--

BOB! I--I-- YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH! ENOUGH TO CONVINCE ME I SHOULD GO TO HOLLYWOOD! THANKS, VALERIE, FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE GIVEN ME-- INCLUDING YOUR LIES! AND I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER TO LEAVE YOU WITH THAN ONE OF THOSE KISSES YOU LOATHED SO MUCH! IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER TO KNOW IT'S THE LAST!



BRUTALLY, HE PULLED ME INTO HIS ARMS-- AND HIS LIPS CRUSHING MINE! UNTIL NOW I HAD REFUSED TO FACE THE TRUTH-- BUT AS MY HEAD SPUN CRAZILY, I KNEW I LOVED HIM-- WILDLY, MADLY, COMPLETELY!



CONTEMPTUOUSLY, HE PUSHED ME AWAY-- OUT OF HIS LIFE!

LET'S GO, CORINNE! THE SOONER WE GET OUT OF HERE THE BETTER!



I KNEW THAT I HAD BROKEN MY OWN HEART AND COULD ONLY BITTERLY REGRET MY STUPID, MISGUIDED AMBITION--

OH, BOB, MY DARLING-- I'VE LOST YOU-- LOST YOU!



FOR ME, AFTER VALERIE'S DECEIT-- THE SOONER I GOT TO CALIFORNIA THE BETTER! NEXT DAY--

COME ON, LET'S GO! WHERE'S MR. HARMON?

HE'S TRAVELING BY TRAIN! MUCH COZIER THIS WAY-- JUST TWO ABOARD MY PRIVATE PLANE! IT'LL BE OUR FIRST CHANCE TO BE ALONE!





AFTER THAT NIGHT OF HEARTBREAK, DESPITE MY MISERY, I HAD TO APPEAR AT THE BANQUET IN MY HONOR--

AND SO TO MISS VALERIE STONE, **WOMAN OF THE YEAR--** I PRESENT THIS AWARD AS THE **SUCCESS OF THE YEAR!**

THANK YOU! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WON'T USE THE SCRIPT I PREPARED-- BECAUSE I NOW REALIZE IT IS **FALSE!** I DON'T DESERVE THIS AWARD -- BECAUSE AS A **WOMAN, I'M A FRAUD!**



AS I CAME TO THE END OF MY LONG SPEECH--

I REALIZE I'VE DONE SOMETHING UNUSUAL, REVEALING TO THE WORLD A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE SO CLOSE TO THE HEART OF A WOMAN-- BUT IF I'VE CONVINCED OTHER WOMEN THAT THE ONLY TRUE SUCCESS IS THAT OF THE **HEART**, THEN PERHAPS MY OWN LIFE WON'T BE SUCH A COMPLETE **FAILURE!**

VALERIE, DARLING!



MEANWHILE--

RELAX, BABY-- WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO-- AND WE'VE GOT IT ALL TO **OURSELVES!**

JUST HAPPENED TO THINK-- VALERIE'S SCHEDULED TO MAKE HER RADIO SPEECH RIGHT NOW! I WANT TO HEAR IT--IT SHOULD BE A MASTERPIECE OF **LIES!**



GREAT GUNS! IS IT POSSIBLE? WAIT-- SHE'S SCHEDULED FOR A HALF HOUR SPEECH, AND WE'VE JUST LEFT THE AIRPORT! PILOT! TURN BACK!

BUT BOB-- YOU CAN'T!



FOR A MOMENT, THERE WAS ONLY TOTAL DISBELIEF IN MY HEART! THEN, I FORGOT EVERYTHING-- WHERE I WAS, WHO WAS WATCHING-- EVERYTHING BUT THAT I WAS IN THE ARMS OF THE MAN I LOVED!

OH, DARLING, DARLING--

SWEETHEART!



THEN, AS HER VOICE CAME OVER THE AIR--

-- A **FRAUD!** I'M NOT THE MOST **SUCCESSFUL** WOMAN OF THE YEAR-- BUT THE OUTSTANDING **FAILURE!** WHAT SUCCESS CAN THERE BE FOR A PERSON RULED BY **AMBITION!** I LOST THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE-- WHEN I LET THE ONLY MAN I REALLY **LOVED** SLIP AWAY FROM ME!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE JUDGES HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS! INSTEAD OF **WOMAN OF THE YEAR**, MISS VALERIE STONE HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS-- **WOMAN OF THE CENTURY!**



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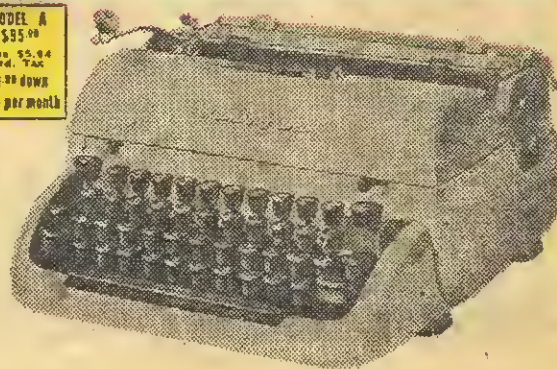


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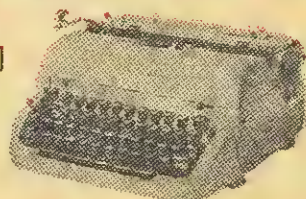
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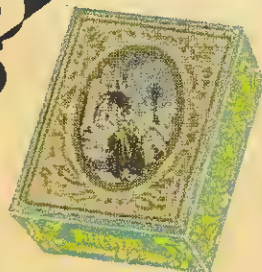
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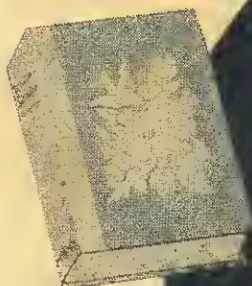
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